



Tomorrow's Full guide to the new NFL season

16 pages in the Saturday Magazine

Seven-day listings guide

Inside Section Two



THE INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY 30 AUGUST 1996

WEATHER: Dry and sunny

40P (MSP)

Lee, the Manchester manager, moved again yesterday to try to keep Gert Kludze at Maine Road. Georgian midfield player on the brink of a move to Alan Ball out of Manchester in the wake of a player's resignation on Monday, Lee yesterday said he had no plans to sign him. Lee has reportedly been keen on big players and there have been offers from European clubs. City players, led by Lee's suggested senior professionals, are unlikely to be sold off. One player said: "It's time anything was said about Gary Flitcroft suggesting the midfield player back to our original runs. Nobody wants just Georgia and it's strange that there was a camp against him and blame it on the players."

We gave a guarded response from George, the former Arsenal player, on Tuesday. "I know George Gilligan has paid attention to the fact that he would be interested in being the new manager of Manchester City," he said. "But if he doesn't come, we presume he didn't want to go."

Another manager looking for a new job is Andy King, who has been dismissed by Mansfield Town manager. The former midfielder was signed on Monday, and left Division club after meeting with the chairman, Keith Haslam, that lasted 5 minutes. His reserve manager, Steve Parkin, is currently at Fielden. Jimmy Thompson has signed as manager of Rovers after just six months' charge of the Scottish Premier Division club.

I wonder if I can have a fee of £250,000 for the lot. Everton and Oldham star Ian Marshall Stoke have been in a Portman Road defeat. Hugo da Costa, on loan from Benfica, while Valerio Vassalli has joined Roberto Soriano in Italy's Serie B last season on a long-term loan.

The BBC has drawn up plans to spin off its largest directorate — which runs studios, outside broadcasting facilities and editing suites — into a separate wholly owned company.

The move will be seen as a first step toward the break-up of the BBC and the privatisation of large chunks of the corporation. The facilities and studios generate sales of more than £700m a year and employ around 9,000 people.

Plans for the spin-off, due to be discussed at a meeting of the BBC board of management next month, are sure to spark intense debate, particularly from unions and MPs, about the future status of the public service broadcaster.

Under the proposals — which according to senior corporation sources have the support of the director-general, John Birt — BBC Resources would become an operating subsidiary, supplying technical support not only to the BBC but to other broadcasters on a commercial basis. The BBC's own programmes would continue to be serviced by Resources, which is already charging fees to other BBC departments under the controversial "internal market" introduced by Mr Birt.

Speculation is growing within the corporation that the Resources unit as a whole could eventually be privatised; and a management buy-out, led by Resources chief Rod Lynch, has been rumoured. Mr Lynch previously worked at British Airways, Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group, and at P&G, the hotel company, where he was sales and marketing director.

In addition, he is pressing for an above-inflation rise in the licence fee in order to finance the transition to digital.

Commercialising BBC Resources could bolster the case against the licence fee increase.

Under the spin-off, the BBC would take a step closer to

By Mathew Horsman

what Mr Birt has called, in private, "the virtual corporation" — a programme-making giant not weighed down by the infrastructure of broadcasting.

Mr Birt has argued that the BBC's real strengths as a public service broadcaster lie in its programmes, not its hardware. That philosophy was behind the management shake-up announced in June, under which

broadcasting and production

however, as critics may argue, the BBC would need less money, not more, if it is no longer obliged to fund the huge costs of keeping the resources arm at the leading edge of technology.

BBC Resources, by far the corporation's largest directorate, was created three years ago to bring together the disparate technical operations that support both radio and television. From 12,000 employees in

executive: "The changes at BBC Resources in recent years have meant that the operations is now breaking even."

"The strategic question that must be asked is what kind of company BBC Resources should be in the future."

Spinning off the directorate would relieve the BBC of the need to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in new technology to prepare for the introduction of digital television. Broadcasting equipment is rendered obsolete far more quickly than in the past, requiring more frequent upgrading. "It isn't clear to us whether the BBC ought to be spending its budget on such capital expenditure," the executive said.

The BBC Resources proposal will be discussed at a board of management meeting next month, and a detailed business plan is being prepared. Senior BBC sources said last night that if the numbers did not add up, the option would be dropped altogether. But if all appears well, final plans would then be put to the Board of Governors, of which Sir Christopher Bland, the former London Weekend Television chief, is chairman. He is also believed to support the proposal.

However, the permission of the Department of National Heritage, which oversees the BBC Charter, would also be required, the sources indicated. "Any change that puts the BBC at commercial risk would have to be reviewed," a spokesman said.

The BBC declined to comment on the plans. It is understood that a memo will be sent to line managers within the next few weeks outlining the proposals.

Business comment, page 17

Sir Christopher Bland: Supports plan to spin off directorate

operations are to be separated for the first time.

The director-general is also keen to cut costs by a further 15 per cent over three years, and to generate significant commercial revenue, both at home and overseas.

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According to

2 news

Howard warned of jail turmoil

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

There were warnings of tension in jails last night after the High Court threw out a prisoner's challenge to Michael Howard's decision to suspend the controversial early release scheme.

The fears by penal groups – and renewed political fall-out – came with the Home Secretary had been advised that he had no legal right to recall the 537 prisoners wrongly freed early under the guidance from Richard Tilt, head of the Prison Service.

Speaking after a judicial review brought by John Naughton, an inmate at Lindholme jail, Doncaster, was rejected by two judges. Paul Cavadiano, chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said: "If this decision is not overturned on appeal, it is bound to increase tension in prisons. Prisoners who have been expecting early release but do not get it will feel angry and resentful. They will feel especially frustrated because over 500 fellow prisoners in the same position were released before the Home Secretary's intervention, and this is

bound to seem particularly unfair."

Mr Howard was hoping that the court ruling would draw a line under the early release fiasco. But his lack of power, according to legal advice, to require the 537 to return to jail served only to reinforce the ineptitude of the past week.

Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "This is a common-sense ruling which raises even more questions about how this dreadful shambles began in the first place. Subject to an appeal, the decision means that more than 500

prisoners have been released into the community before serving their sentences in full. The public will not lightly forgive Michael Howard and the Tory government for such irresponsible bungling.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said the court's reasons for refusing Naughton's application would be given next week. But the other judge, Mr Justice Popplewell, made clear that he thought the new instruction to prison governors to take into account time spent on remand in custody for each consecutive sentence was "an absurdity"

which could not have been intended by Parliament. "Common sense is still part of the common law, isn't it?" he demanded of Naughton's counsel.

Mr Justice Popplewell said that under the guidelines a man who spent a year remanded in custody and was then sentenced to a year's jail for each of 10 offences consecutively would be released immediately, whereas an accomplice who was given bail would face 10 years inside.

A Prison Service spokesman said governors and their staff would explain to prisoners that the law had now been clarified and that early release could no longer be expected. Contingency plans to deal with unrest would be activated in the event of any protests, she added.

Naughton had argued that he should have been released on 24 December last year and was entitled to compensation of up to £95 a day. He must now spend another month in jail after being sentenced to two 18-month consecutive sentences in 1995. A similar application by another prisoner, Sean Smith, was also dismissed.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Scotland Yard is to use undercover detectives to target suspected "bent" police officers in an anti-corruption initiative announced yesterday. The move was outlined in the Metropolitan Police's strategy into the next millennium which also stated that the role of bobbies on the beat would become a "specialist" function to recognise its importance. Traffic wardens were identified as a group that could provide a more useful "patrol" function in future.

But concern that some corrupt officers could be escaping detection will lead to a re-organisation of the complaints procedures and the introduction of more "pro-active" investigations. This will include officers using covert methods, including phone taps, against suspects and obtaining tip-offs from underworld informants. *Jason Bennett*

Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, has come under fire for failing to carry out certain checks on Camelot. In a report, the National Audit Office expressed concern about Mr Davis's role in monitoring and regulation. It identifies several areas where it claims he could do more to protect consumers and improve financial scrutiny of Camelot.

NAO investigators also highlighted £6m worth of interest made by Camelot on money that should have been paid out in prizes but has not been claimed. The report follows a highly critical study by the influential Commons Public Accounts Committee last month which accused Mr Davis of making "serious errors of judgement" by accepting free flights from an American company with a large stake in running the game.

Postal workers are on strike today after marathon peace talks failed to produce a breakthrough to the long-running mail dispute. Leaders of the Communication Workers' Union decided that 130,000 sorting office and delivery workers would go on strike from 3am, followed by another walkout on Monday.

The union's executive will meet tomorrow to decide their next move and could trigger a three-month suspension of the Royal Mail's monopoly on delivering letters if they call further strikes.

The number of people killed or fatally injured in road accidents in England last year dropped by 38 per cent, to 41,676, compared to the 1981-85 average, but the number of slight injuries increased by 8 per cent, according to official statistics published yesterday.

In total, there were 273,737 people injured in road accidents, a decrease of 1.5 per cent since 1994. The number of casualties fell in the majority of regions, with the exception of the North East and South West. In 1987 the Government announced that it aimed to reduce road casualties by a third by the year 2000. That target was exceeded for both deaths and serious injuries two years ago. *Clare Garner*

The judicial inquiry into abuse of children in care in North Wales will hold its first meeting next month. Its chairman, Sir Ronald Waterhouse, will outline the procedures to be adopted, including the issue of the cost of legal representation of any witnesses.

The tribunal, whose two other members are expected to be appointed soon, will start hearing evidence in January about the abuse of children in care in Cwmd and Gwynedd since 1974 and will look at whether those authorities and agencies responsible for care could have detected the abuse earlier. *Roger Dobson*

One in 10 young people experiences a psychiatric or psychological problem which lasts for at least a year, according to the Consumers' Association. The number rises as high as one in four in inner cities, and increasing numbers of children are diagnosed as suffering from severe depression. Doctors now estimate that around 2 per cent of schoolchildren and 5 per cent of adolescents suffer from depression.

Stress can affect a child's psychological, emotional and even physical development, says the *Which? Guide to Managing Stress*. *Glenda Cooper*

A nun who was forced to leave her job as a primary school head teacher by her parish priest, who was also chairman of the school governors, has won an industrial tribunal action. Sister Clotilde Stephens had argued at a hearing in Kent that she had to resign from St Bartholomew's Roman Catholic Primary School in Swanley after being stripped of her powers.

She told the tribunal that she had returned from holiday last summer to find that a secret meeting of governors had barred her from buying books and equipment. Valerie Cooney, chairman of the tribunal, said: "Such restrictions would have been a withdrawal of budgetary powers given to the applicant and would have disabled her from carrying out some of her duties as set out in the terms and conditions of her employment." *Frances Abrams*

Doctors warned pregnant women to avoid peanuts to safeguard their babies from a potentially life-threatening allergy. Exposure in the womb or via breast-milk to proteins derived from peanuts may be partly responsible for the fact that more children are developing peanut allergies at an earlier age than ever before.

Dr Jonathan Howitt, a clinical research fellow at Southampton General Hospital, and co-author of a study in tomorrow's issue of the *British Medical Journal*, said that the evidence was circumstantial but sufficiently strong to advise pregnant mothers – particularly those who suffer allergies, or whose partners and other children have allergies like hayfever, asthma, eczema – to stop eating peanuts. *Liz Hunt*

The number of over-85s in England and Wales has reached record levels. Confirmation of the "greying" of the population is revealed in official statistics which show there are 948,000 over-85s – a 17 per cent increase between 1991 and 1995. This is particularly marked when compared with the rise in the number of pensioners over the same period.

Elsewhere the official figures highlight a marked fall in the population aged 16-29. This stands at 9.9 million – down 926,000 (8.5 per cent) from four years ago. Overall, the population has risen by just 1.4 per cent over the period to 51.8 million and has stayed almost static between 1994 and 1995.

Correction: An article on 20 August wrongly stated that Joss Verbeek, director of the Belgian committee of the charity UNICEF, was among 16 people charged in 1988 with paedophile-related activities. Although Mr Verbeek was found guilty, separately, of protecting one of the 16, and received a two-year suspended sentence, he was later acquitted on appeal.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	Switzerland	Portugal	Spain	Belgium	Armenia	Algeria	Other European countries	North America	Caribbean	Central America	South America	East Asia and Australasia	Sub-Saharan Africa	Latin America	Other countries
£19.00	£19.00	£14.00	£20.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Belgium	£19.00	£14.00	£20.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Croatia	£16.00	£12.00	£16.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Cyprus	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Denmark	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Iceland	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Ireland	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Italy	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Malta	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Norway	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Portugal	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Spain	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
France	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Germany	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Brook	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Switzerland	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
UK	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
USA	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00
Other countries	£11.00	£8.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00

How a fertility drug goes to work on an egg.

In this week's Radio Times read Mark Porter's non-sensational, authoritative and informative article on fertility treatment.

RadioTimes

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.



Mutual admiration: Win Bernard (left) and Capt. Hidirbi

Jet hijack pilot praises his 'perfect' British rescue

STEVE BOGGAN

The pilot of the hijacked Sudan Airways jet spoke for the first time yesterday of the "perfection" of the British operation to free it.

Captain Abdel Hamid Hidirbi, 51, said he was staggered by the professionalism of police and aviation officials on the ground, adding: "I thought perfection only existed in books."

Capt. Hidirbi's comments were echoed by the Prime Minister, John Major, who sent his congratulations to Essex police for the way they handled the situation after the plane touched down at Stansted airport early on Tuesday.

Capt. Hidirbi, a British-trained pilot with Sudan Airways since 1969, was speaking after almost 24 hours of police interviews during which he told detectives

When success is in their genes

Cricketing triumph of Beefy's boy shows how talent breeds talent. Report by **Rebecca Fowler**

EVEN when he was playing ball in the garden as a small boy, his father would never let him win.

Ian Botham's lack of compromise with his son apparently paid off this week as Liam, 19, made a stunning débüt for Hampshire and joined the gallery of anointed offspring following in the footsteps of famous parents.

The "like father, like son" Bothams have emerged as the latest example of how extraordinary aptitude can be passed from one generation to the next, creating talent dynasties in sports, arts, music, and academia. So far it is also among the happiest images of filial bonds bringing out the best.

"Beefy's boy", as Liam has been dubbed, showed from

an early age that he shared the sporting aptitude of his father, excelling at all games, including rugby and football, according to his family.

He also displayed his father's fierce competitive spirit.

When Liam won his first plaudits at Hampshire he said:

"I learned to compete from about the age of nine or 10. Everything I took Dad on at was for real, whether it was Monopoly, poker, snooker, fishing or golf. We both wanted to win. Bothams don't come second."

Others who have succeeded at the parental calling include Damon Hill, the racing driver whose father Graham was a world champion and Vanessa Redgrave, whose daughters Joey and Natasha have both followed her on to the stage.

Toby Stephens, the rising Shakespearean star is the son of Dame Maggie Smith and the late Sir Robert Stephens, and Sir Rocco Forte took over the family hotel empire from his father Lord (Charles) Forte; Dominic Lawson edited the *Spectator* in the footsteps of Nigel Lawson while Kim Wilde

achieved fame as a pop star, as her father Marty Wilde had done.

The experts suggest that for the most part the offspring of the famous stand a much better chance of succeeding, particularly in areas such as sport and music, as well as in

intellectual pursuits which flourish with a combination of good genes and a supportive environment.

Dr Petruska Clarkson, a consultant psychologist, said:

"There's quite a simple equation: the genetic endowment will set the ceiling and the environment will determine

their children live up to them."

The late Graham Hill took the cautious approach with his son.

He warned: "I can't believe that any parents want their son to go steaming into motor racing. Damon is far too intelligent for that."

But Damon, when given the

light pall must also be a burden. Sir Rocco Forte failed to beat off an aggressive Granada buy-out earlier this year, and held a party afterwards in the Cafe Royal where his father once had his private offices when he still commanded the chain he had created.

Marlon Brando's son Christian served five years for murder, and his daughter

Stephens the first test of his mettle when at 15 he was taken to Lord Olivier's for tea by his stepfather.

He recalled: "He asked my stepdad if I wanted to be an actor, and his response, as he looked at me was, 'You know what they say: It always misses a generation.' I was crushed."

Generally, the sons and daughters of the talent dynasties of Britain are stoical about their position.

Richard Olivier, son of the

Late Lord Olivier, who directed his sisters and Joan

Plowright, his mother, in the

West End, said at the outset of

his career: "There is no way I

would make out that the bur-

den of the name has been

greater than the opportunity of

being an apprentice at the

feet of the masters."

His father also gave Toby

the first test of his mettle when at 15 he was taken to Lord Olivier's for tea by his stepfather.

He recalled: "He asked my stepdad if I wanted to be an actor, and his response, as he looked at me was, 'You know what they say: It always misses a generation.' I was crushed."

For the Bothams at least there was some good old-fashioned family pride yesterday.

Marie Botham, Liam's grandmother, said: "His father

is very proud. He was the first

person to ring me and tell me

to look at the result on Tele-

text. When it's in the family

people tend to expect it. It's

always been the same for

Liam, but we are all really

proud of him."

Offspring of the famous have the best chance in areas needing a combination of good genes and a supportive environment

achieved fame as a pop star, as her father Marty Wilde had done.

The experts suggest that for the most part the offspring of the famous stand a much better chance of succeeding, particularly in areas such as sport and music, as well as in

whether it comes out or not."

But she added: "The one little twist is that, sometimes to be the child of someone who is really outstanding goes badly wrong."

"This involves having difficulty living up to parents – and parents sometimes not letting

chance to follow in his father's wheel tracks, cited him as the greatest force behind his own phenomenal success.

"He was my inspiration, and my guiding light was seeing how he made it from nothing," Damon said. "He never had help from anyone,

Cheyenne committed suicide.

Victoria Sellers, the daughter of Britt Ekland and Peter Sellers, also ended up in jail, through drug addiction.

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The model agencies say one of these girls is the proper shape and the other is too fat. Are they right?



Vital statistics: Julie Stanton (left) weighs 4½ stone; 15 years ago she was seeking help from an eating disorders clinic but was persuaded by an agency she had a future as a model. Lucy Stanley (right) was dismissed as too fat

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

A concave chest, pin-thin arms, and jutting hip bones can propel a teenager to catwalk stardom – or straight into hospital with a feeding tube down her nose. Model agencies are once again in the dock amid claims that an eating disorder is an advantage for young girls hungry for the fame and fortune that lie as a clothes horse can bring.

The line that divides teenagers with a physique envied by millions of women from that of the anorexic is increasingly blurred, despite agencies' protest that they employ only healthy girls with normal appetites who are thin because they exercise a lot.

Jo Fonseca, director of Models 1, said: "Models have to be slim. I can think of nothing worse than being fat. The only reason that thin girls look so unusual at the moment is because there are so many fat people." In a third case detailed in the October issue of Company magazine,

18-years-old, 5ft 9in and weighing in at just 6½ stone, was in the first throes of anorexia when she was stopped by a scout for a leading agency and asked if she wanted to be a model.

"She said I had a perfect figure and was beautiful, so I was just right for the catwalk," Ms Thompson said. "For the past year my family and friends had been telling me I looked awful and needed medical help... It was so confusing, I thought 'I can't be too thin if an agent thinks I'm good enough to be a model.' So I continued to starve myself." Six months later she was dangerously ill in hospital.

Amy Davies, who worked for a top agency, allowed herself just 400 calories a day in order to maintain her 34-24-35 figure. "Sticking to the statistics on my modelling card was becoming a real struggle. I'd go to casting or shoots and... people would say to me 'you're a big one aren't you,'" she said.

Anecdotal evidence suggests otherwise. Lynda Thompson,



Company investigates the craze for supermodels'

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news

King Rat ultimatum puts peace to test

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland correspondent

The Protestant paramilitary death threat against a leading Portadown loyalist yesterday developed into a political controversy which could have far-reaching effects on the Northern Ireland talks process.

Former Ulster Volunteer Force prisoner Billy Wright, 36, yesterday maintained that he

intended to defy the "directive" from all three major loyalist paramilitary organisations to leave Northern Ireland by midnight on Saturday.

A statement from the "Combined Loyalist Military Command" on Wednesday warned those that failure to leave would result in "summary justice".

But he responded: "I suppose if they don't move, their words are empty, but I think they will

find it very hard to justify to the unionist people, and even their own members, for what this is - a form of fascism."

His refusal to leave means that the issue has turned into a major test of the authority of the three main groups - the UVF, Ulster Defence Association and Red Hand Commandos - within the loyalist underworld. It could also develop into a test of the state of extreme Protestant

opinion, as the paramilitary leaderships favour maintaining their ceasefire while Mr Wright favours ending it.

The affair reached into the political arena yesterday when the two main Unionist parties, David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and UDA, and are regarded by many as in effect the political wings of the two paramilitary groups. The mainstream unionist complaint is that the two parties should not be allowed to remain at the table while their

parent organisations are issuing public death threats.

PUP spokesman David Ervine made clear in a series of media interviews that he did not approve of the "directive" to Mr Wright, but he resisted pressure to issue an outright condemnation of the move. Saying he was "not in the business of politics of condemnation," he added: "Somebody who goes around threatening to kill people if they don't get out of the

I won't use it. I simply won't use it for one reason because it doesn't work, it hasn't saved a single life in Northern Ireland."

DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson yesterday wrote to the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, urging him to suspend the PUP and UDP from the talks process. He declared: "Somebody who goes around threatening to kill people if they don't get out of the

country is hardly behaving as one is expected to within a democracy."

Ulster Unionist party deputy leader, John Taylor, said the PUP must condemn the threat to Mr Wright. "When the UVF and other paramilitaries are threatening murder of a loyalist, we are asking the PUP to condemn it. If the PUP do not, they would leave themselves in the same position as Sinn Fein."



Under threat: a pensive Billy Wright yesterday and, right, after a 1994 car bomb attack. Photographs: Pacemaker



As Ulster's hard man ponders his future, his past is set to haunt him

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland correspondent

Billy Wright, known as King Rat, is a child of the troubles. Born in 1960, he was 15 years old when one of the key, formative events of his life took place not far from where he lived in South Armagh.

The Whitecross massacre,

On a January night in 1976, a gang of IRA gunmen stopped a busload of workmen, weeded out the Catholics, and opened fire on the Protestants. Ten men were killed.

Republicans argued that the incident was an attempt to shock loyalists into ending a wave of attacks on Catholics in the county. If so, it could

hardly have been more counter-productive, for it led to a long line of paramilitaries who become larger-than-life public figures of great notoriety, attracting publicity, fascination, fear and hatred in great measure.

Such people often end up dead or in prison, for they become marked men: Johnny "Mad Dog" Adair, of the Ulster

militant reputation. He has become the latest in a long line of paramilitaries who become larger-than-life public figures of great notoriety, attracting publicity, fascination, fear and hatred in great measure.

Wright has had two spells in prison and gone through a religious phase as a lay preacher. But during much of the 1980s and 1990s he built his

Defence Association, has been jailed for 17 years; Jim Craig of the same organisation was killed by his own men: Dessie O'Hare, of the Irish National Liberation Army, has been put behind bars for 40 years; loyalist John McKeague was killed

One of the factors which propelled Wright to his current notoriety was the journalistic invention of his nickname "King Rat".

Using it meant that local

newspapers felt free to write about this figure, building him up to almost mythical proportions. Wright was not usually named, but everyone knew that King Rat was Billy Wright, and the stream of publicity built up his image.

His militancy increased as three relatives - his father-in-law, brother-in-law and an uncle - were killed by the IRA. He has lived most of his life in the town of Portadown, scene of this

summer's Drumcree stand-off

and known as one of Northern

Ireland's most bitter towns and

the centre of one of its most

violent areas.

The early 1990s brought an

upsurge of loyalist violence

around Portadown, with Wright

as a prime suspect for many of

the killings. He is known as a

cold and clever man who gives

at first supported the move. But within months he became restless with inactivity and was increasingly critical of the UVF leadership.

The organisation's Belfast

chiefs have maintained their

ceasefire even after the collapse

of the IRA's, and have further

taken a political line more

moderate than that of the main-

influence to keep things calm.

It is reported that a close associate of Wright's was ready to

drive a mechanical digger at the

Drumcree obstacles and into

the RUC lines.

If it did not happen, but some miles away a Catholic man was shot dead in an attack which is believed to be the work of the UVF. Wright and some associates were questioned about the killing by police but released without charge.

The murder was regarded by the UVF leaders as a flagrant breach of the loyalist ceasefire and led to the announcement at the start of this month that its mid-Ulster unit was being disbanded.

When it became evident that the unit would not quickly accept this, the death threat was issued against Wright, making it clear that his celebrity would not prevent the organisation from using violence against him.

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THE SUNDAY REVIEW

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DAVID MCKITTRICK

news

Beef spectre returns to haunt farmers

TONY BARBER and JOHN RENTOUX

The European Commission suggested yesterday that it might be necessary to slaughter even more British cows, rather than fewer as suggested by British farmers, in order to eliminate BSE.

A Commission spokesman, Gerard Kiely, said that European Union agricultural experts might recommend introduction of a "wider, more selective cull" in response to recent evidence that the disease can be passed from cows to their calves.

Pressure for a more thorough British slaughter of cows has been growing this month in several EU countries, despite the possibility that it will lead to yet another beef row, distracting the EU from other business. No EU officials share the professed belief of John Major, the Prime Minister, that the ban on British beef exports will be lifted by the end of this year.

Mr Kiely's remarks overshadowed a report by Oxford researchers which suggested that mad-cow disease would die out by 2001, regardless of how many cattle are slaughtered between now and then. British farmers seized on this report as proof that the Government should reduce its present planned cull of 120,000 cows, but Mr Kiely said such hopes were unrealistic.

Mr Major faces the threat of a new revolt from his Eurosceptic MPs amid growing evi-



Low yield: Farmers watch cattle being sold at the market in Northallerton, Yorkshire, for around £150 less than before the beef crisis

Photograph: Tom Pilston

dence that his "beef war" against the EU ban on British beef exports was fought in vain.

Angela Browning, the Agriculture minister, yesterday sought to pacify Tory rebels who declared that, after new re-

search, they would not support "needless" slaughter of cattle.

Appearing to reverse previous signs that the Government might extend the cull in the light of evidence of mother-to-calf transmission of "mad-cow dis-

ease", she hinted that the Government might now seek to reduce the numbers culled, setting the Government on a fresh confrontation with Brussels.

She told BBC radio: "We need to take stock quite urgently of the implications of this new evidence."

She was responding to John Biffen, the Tory former Cabinet minister, who said he would not support the Government's slaughter plans in a Commons

vote. "I wouldn't be prepared to use my vote to maintain the prospective cull, which is going to result in an enormous number of cattle, with no traces of BSE whatever, being put into the charnel house," he said.

Several Tory Eurosceptics have said they would not back the slaughter policy, and last week Nicholas Badger, MP for Wolverhampton SW, called for the policy of non-co-operation with the EU to be restored.

In June, Mr Major set November as his target for lifting most of the EU ban on British beef. This now looks impossible. And the "figleaf" negotiated by Mr Major at the Florence summit, which allowed him to hit the policy of non-co-operation, has produced no result. The declaration appended to the summit communiqué said that Britain would be allowed to export beef to non-EU countries if the Commission approved it, but since then no such exports have been applied for.

The cull of younger cattle was supposed to begin at the beginning of this month, but will now have to wait until Government and European Commission reconsider which animals should be selected – and for a Commons vote to approve it, which cannot take place until the House returns on 14 October. Labour and the Liberal Democrats both continue to refuse to support the Government's proposed slaughter of 127,000 cattle under the age of 30 months.

Mr Kiely said in Brussels that any proposal for a revised cull that involved eliminating fewer cases of BSE would be "very difficult to sell" to the EU's other 14 member-states.

He pointed out that most EU governments see the BSE crisis not so much as a matter of how many cows to kill, but as a question of public confidence in eating beef.

"The issue is the protection of consumer health and the eradication of BSE," he said.

'It's an insult to see cattle given away'

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Market day used to be the high point of the week for Tony Flintoft who farms 800 feet up on the North York moors. He would take the beef cattle he had reared from birth down to Northallerton and stand in the auction ring as the product of a year or more's hard labour was judged by his fellow hill farmers and bid for by meat traders. Then it was home with the cheque.

Last Tuesday, Mr Flintoft, took two beef bulls from his farm on Snilesworth moor to Northallerton but did not wait to see them auctioned. "It's too disheartening to watch them given away. It's a bit of an insult really," he said. On average, he is losing £150 an animal – typical of the losses suffered by

pence per kilo to break even.

Farmers at Northallerton felt they had been let down by politicians. "Dorrell should be hanged," said one. There is also bitterness that dairy farmers are getting hefty compensation payments while the beef men, who have seen comparatively few cases of BSE, have been "left to swing in the wind".

Mr Flintoft has a suckler herd of 100 cows and fattens up their calves – around the same number – in sheds over the winter. He also has 700 ewes on the moor. But the farm has to support three generations and Mr Flintoft fears for the future unless prices recover.

"Without the beef job there's now," he said. His holding of rough grassland can be used for little else but cattle and sheep. Though lamb prices have increased, a big change in the balance of trade is impractical. "I'd need another 4,000 ewes. It would kill the moor." Unlike Mr Flintoft, many hill farmers are unable to keep young cattle over the winter. Traditionally, calves born on hill farms are brought down in the autumn and sold at auction to lowland farmers who fatten or "finish" them. But the finishers are saying they will not buy calves unless prices are down by £150 to £200 a head.

Last week, Northumberland farmer Richard Thornton got £370 a head for calves which would have fetched £440 to £480 last year. Proud of the quality beef produced on the uplands, he eschewed talk of impending disaster. "Sales are a worry," Mr Thornton said, "but people will grit their teeth and try to ride out the storm."

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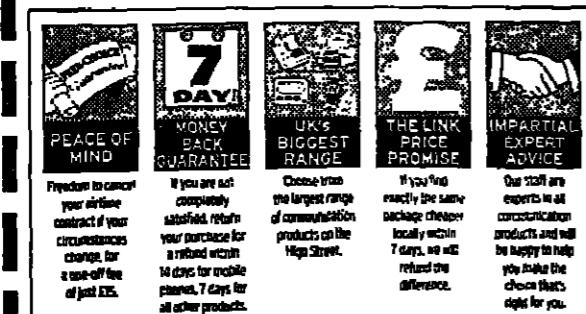
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RUPERT CORNWELL
Chicago

Amid a sudden, hugely embarrassing scandal over a key adviser, President Bill Clinton last night formally launched the last election campaign of his life by setting out a domestic reform blueprint for his next administration. If it comes about, it would make him the first Democrat since Franklin Roosevelt to be elected to a second term.

Hours before, however, the smooth unfolding of the Democratic convention was shattered by allegations in a New York tabloid that one of his key campaign strategists, Dick Morris, had a relationship with a prostitute, whom he had allowed to listen in to calls to the White House, and showed copies of speeches.

Mr Morris, a controversial consultant who helped Mr Clinton in Arkansas in the early 1980s, has worked for both Democrats and Republicans over the last 20 years before being recalled by the President after the Democrats' mid-term election disaster in 1994. He is widely credited with the shift to the centre which has helped Mr Clinton gain a commanding lead over Bob Dole, his Republican challenger this autumn. So influential had he become that his fall has appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine.

The allegations first appeared in *Star* magazine, and then the *New York Post*. Late yesterday morning, Mr Morris had left Chicago and was reported to have handed in his resignation, tersely expressing his "regret" at the incident. The White House scrambled to minimise damage to Mr Clinton's acceptance speech, the climax to a convention that has been less a political arena than a rolling four-day coronation.

The Morris affair could not have come at a worse moment for the Clinton campaign – notwithstanding the fact that his departure will be widely, albeit secretly, welcomed within the White House.

In last night's address, the President was expected to set out proposals to improve education, toughen the fight against crime, expand health care and reduce poverty. He promised to amend the controversial welfare bill, increasing protection for

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS '96

children. Arriving in Chicago on Wednesday, Mr Clinton reminded America that he was approaching end of his political career, as he prepared to fight "the first campaign for the 21st century and the last campaign for Bill Clinton".

Marginally less media-slick than the Republican convention in San Diego, at least until the Morris bombshell, this gathering had been massively scripted, blurring some traditional distinctions between the parties to the point of invisibility. But real differences do exist, most notably on taxes.

Mr Clinton has already promised a \$100bn tax cut package, centred on a tax credit for children. To that he was expected to add \$30bn, including a capital gains tax cut for homeowners and incentives for employers to hire people coming off welfare, aimed at fending off fierce criticism from liberals that in his eagerness to neutralise a powerful Republican campaign issue he was casting the nation's poor children to the wolves.

But the total does not approach the across-the-board 15 per cent tax cut promised by Mr Dole, worth \$548bn, which Democrats claim would simply drive up the deficit and push the economy into recession.

In an enthusiastically received address on Wednesday, Vice President Al Gore took some hefty swipes at Mr Dole, the 73-year-old former Senate leader was a "good and decent" man but he was offering himself as "a bridge to the past. Tonight, Bill Clinton and I offer ourselves as the bridge to the future." Mr Gore added: "If he says he's the most optimistic man in America, I'd hate to see the pessimists."

From California, where he is touting his tax cut proposals, Mr Dole replied: "I feel sorry for him, he's the hatchet-man for the Democrats... it's unfortunate, but unexpected."

Back in Chicago came the traditional roll-call of states. Unopposed in the primaries, Mr Clinton took all 4,288 delegate votes – again a feat last accomplished by Franklin Roosevelt 60 years ago.

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Cheer leader: President Clinton urging on his supporters yesterday

Photograph: Win McNamee

Ex-Communists are clapped out

Chicago Diary

A couple of East European guests at the Democratic convention – one an ambassador, the other a political scientist – remarked that they could not bring themselves to clap with everybody else. The event evoked painful memories of forced applause at Communist Party conferences at home. An eerie thought, but not a surprising one. The Democratic Convention, like the Republicans two weeks ago, is a rigidly regimented affair. More fun, more circus, but for the benefit of the television-masses the political commissars have repressed dissent and orchestrated displays of monolithic party unity around the beloved figure of the Leader.

Every convention speaker, however inept, knows the secret of transforming dross into gold. You just chuck in one of the stock phrases guaranteed to elicit a Pavlovian response: "Restore the American Dream"; "the future of America's children". These words, in these combinations, induce chemical reactions in the brain which translate into feelings of well-being. Brezhnev knew the trick. He used words like "the downfall of bourgeois capitalism" and "the dictatorship of the proletariat".

No phrases resonate more widely in America than the ones coined by the advertisers. Take Nike's slogan, "Just do it". At an anti-abortion rally in Parking Lot E, the designated "protest zone" 200 yards from the convention, a man was wearing a T-shirt that read, "Don't just do it! Do it for the Lord!" On the other side of the family-values divide, a young man was spotted strolling along Michigan Avenue, Chicago's Oxford Street, with his arm around a woman. His T-shirt message? "I just did it".

John Carlin

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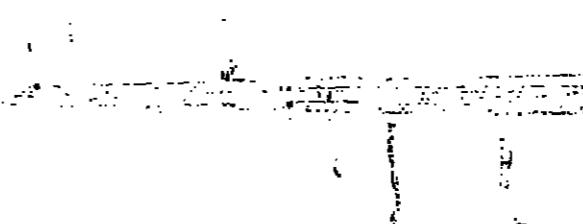
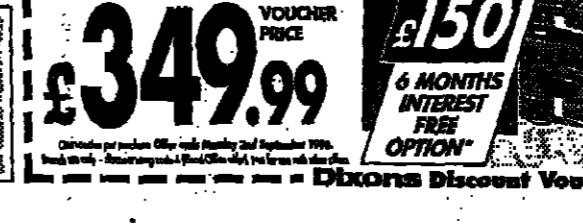
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Chicago Diary

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leaves divide a young
was spotted strolling along
in Avenue, Chicago,
rd Street, with his son
and a woman. His T-shirt
says: "I just did it!"

John Carlin

Israelis block Arafat's march on Jerusalem

ERIC SILVER
Jerusalem

Palestinian and Israelis were precariously poised last night between confrontation and peace-making. Urgent consultations were continuing backstage to prevent a showdown in the wake of Yasser Arafat's charge that the right-wing Likud Government had "stabbed us in the back" on the Palestinians.

Israel reinforced its guards to block thousands of West Bank Muslims from marching on Jerusalem today to worship at the Al Aqsa Mosque, the third most holy in Islam and a symbol of Palestinian national identity. The old green-line border has been closed to most Palestinians since the suicide bombings in February and March.

Mr Arafat on Wednesday urged his people to defy the ban, in protest at Israeli footdragging in the peace process. Palestinian spokesman repeated the call yesterday, in spite of Israeli appeals to think again.

Saeb Erakat, the Palestinian local government minister, said: "I think people should be entitled to worship in Jerusalem and the holy places of Muslims and Christians. We've been urging the Israeli government to lift the siege on Jerusalem and let people conduct their religious services as normally as possible."

Hanan Ashrawi, the higher education minister who represents Jerusalem in the Palestinian Legislative Council, blamed Israel for adopting an "aggressive and violent way". She added: "People have the right to go through and to reach the mosque."

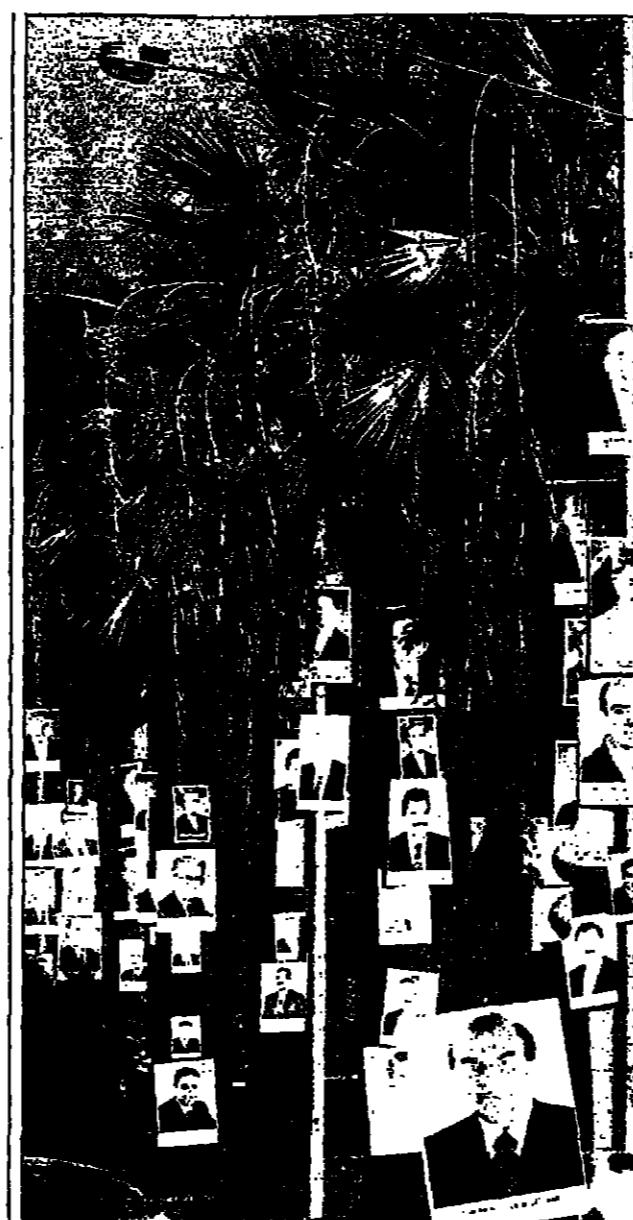
The first half of Mr Arafat's protest passed peacefully yesterday. Shops, offices and businesses closed for four hours throughout the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

In some villages, the strike was enforced by Palestinian security men. In Hebron a shopkeeper, Abed Nasser Atta, said: "It is our battle for Jerusalem, it is now or never."

But as soon as the strike was over, the heads of delegation for the next round of Israeli-Palestinian talks met in a West Jerusalem hotel and agreed to begin negotiations next week.

A more conciliatory Saeb Erakat, who leads the Palestinian team, said: "We look forward, as Palestinians and Israelis, for a message to save the peace process."

His opposite number, former general Dan Shomron, added: "Concrete advances in the future will play a part in lowering the tension."



High profile: An election poster, one of thousands, for President Assad of Syria on the corniche in Beirut

Photograph: Robert Fisk

Lebanon's freedom proves a mirage

Electors are backing Syria's friends, writes Robert Fisk

Beirut — General Mustapha Tlass had described Lebanon as "an oasis of freedom and democracy" in the Middle East.

The general — Syrian minister of defence, no less, as well as an admirer of numerous Miss World title-holders and Princess Diana — was reassuring the head of Lebanon's newspaper editors' union of his faith in the Lebanese parliamentary elections. Better still, Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam publicly pledged that Syria, which has 22,000 troops in Lebanon, would not interfere in the election process. All the Lebanese had to do, it seemed, was to vote for the candidate of their choice.

Lebanon, it should be added, has never been anything so exotic as an oasis of democracy. Pre-war governments were regularly packed with stooges and the relatives of the country's leading families. When parliament was asked to elect a president back in 1970, the speaker's call for a fourth ballot, which might have kept old Suleiman Franjeh from the presidency, prompted Franjeh's bodyguards to threaten the speaker with sub-machine guns. When he called up the incumbent

president for help, the worldly Charles Helou gave this advice to his parliamentary speaker:

"My information authorises me to tell you that if you persist [in the fifth ballot] there will be no survivors among those present in parliament." Franjeh won.

So much not, readers, for Lebanese democracy. Oasis or otherwise, not much has changed here. Accusations of fraud, intimidation, bribery and electoral abuse are par for the course in Lebanon; and, half-way through the staggered six-week polling for the 128-seat parliament, the country's electors are already giving their votes to Syria's loyal friends and allies in the government.

Nasib Lahoud, the most authoritative figure in the Christian opposition — who was elected — has accused the Interior Minister, Michel Murr, of "threats and coercive measures" against the electorate, while Mr Murr, also elected in the allegedly flawed polling in the Mount Lebanon constituency, accused Mr Lahoud of buying votes; to be exact, just

over £79,000 worth. Mr Lahoud then called Mr Murr a "gangster" and a habitual briber. "Democracy has been defeated," the daily *An Nahar* announced on its front page after the first round of elections, while the independent Lebanese Association for the Democracy of Elections complained of false electoral lists, false identity cards and threats against newly-naturalised Lebanese citizens. Lebanese who had just acquired citizenship, it seems, over they would lose it if they voted the wrong way.

Already, Fares Boulez, the Foreign Minister, Druze minister Walid Jumblatt and Marwan Hamadeh, the Electricity Minister Elie Hobeika and Mr Murr have been elected — all good chums of the Syrians. The Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri, is sure to be elected this weekend in Beirut. Albert Molkaibar, an ally of Mr Lahoud and a fierce opponent of Syria's presence in Lebanon, lost. And so oddly enough, did at least one of Hizbullah's candidates. For the old militia war between the

pro-Iranian Hizbullah and the equally Shia, but nationalist, Amal movement — both allies of former General Michel Aoun — the messianic army officer who declared war on Syria before slaughtering many of his own Christian countrymen, and who was driven out of the presidential palace in 1990 — urged a boycott. Mr Lahoud and his allies gave opposite advice.

Prime Minister Hariri, who loathes the Hizbullah, declared the elections a battle "between pragmatism and extremism", while the Hizbullah leader, Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, insisted that his movement would "not join any government list anywhere in the country".

But it also pays to be young and handsome. In Tripoli this week, 34-year-old Misbah Alhaid, the local honorary consul of France, picked up more than 73,000 votes, outdistancing even the old family squire Omar Karameh. A bronzed Adonis amid a sea of silver-haired retainers, poll officers believe he was given the vote of almost every female elector in northern Lebanon. So this is what an oasis of democracy means.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Three men suspected of hiring out girls as young as seven for sex were arrested in Austria after a reporter and a photographer for the weekly magazine, *News*, infiltrated a child-sex ring by posing as clients. *News* published naked photos of the three young girls offered to its staff but blacked out their facial features. Two of the girls were aged 13, the third 12.

The magazine printed excerpts from a catalogue of more than 70 girls, all Slovakian, the youngest of whom was four. The four-year-old was said to be only available for pornographic videos, while the youngest being offered for sex was seven. Police said the suspects did not appear to be connected to a Belgian child-sex ring headed by Marc Dutroux. AP — Vienna

The Zimbabwean government awarded civil servants a 20 per cent wage rise to try to end a crippling 10-day strike that has revealed deep divisions in the ruling party of President Robert Mugabe. However, workers stayed on the streets to press the government to reverse threatened dismissals. The government said it was paying the increase because it had realised it had made a commitment last year to do so. The strike, Zimbabwe's worst civil service strike on record, left essential social services barely functioning. Reuter — Harare

Nato peacekeeping troops detained 25 Serbs after gunmen fired on Muslim refugees returning to homes in a Serb-controlled village on Bosnia's post-war boundary line. UN monitors said. No casualties were reported in the shooting in Mahala but some Muslims were beaten by Serbs. The largely abandoned village had been assigned to the 49 per cent of Bosnia under Serb control under the 1995 Dayton peace treaty. Reuter — Kalemija

Iraq accused Iran of military aggression and said it reserves the right to retaliate for Tehran sending troops into Kurdish-populated regions of northern Iraq. The Kurdish Democratic Party claims the Iranian troops shelled areas under its control in an attempt to help a rival faction, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Reuter — Bagdad

Police fired rubber bullets at black students protesting against the election of an all-white student council at Pretoria Technikon training college yesterday. Two students were slightly injured and four were arrested, police said. The demonstration was organised by the Congress of South African Students, a black group that boycotted the student elections. A spokesman for the group said it disagreed with the student councils' constitution. A college spokeswoman said 25 black students ran for the council, but none were elected. AP — Pretoria

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international

China turns up heat over Hong Kong's top job

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

China's darkest suspicions over London's attempts to sabotage the post-colonial government in Hong Kong have roared to the surface again, with accusations that Britain is "meddling" in the process of selecting the territory's new head of government, to be known as chief executive.

China launched a two-pronged offensive yesterday as one of the colony's Peking-controlled newspapers accused Hugh Davies - head of the British team discussing transitional arrangements - of lobbying to secure the post for Anson Chan, Governor Chris Patten's deputy and chief secretary.

According to the *Wen Wei Po* newspaper, Britain is guilty of "still ignoring the coming of the year 1997 and still dreaming of extending the era of appointing their candidates Hong Kong governor beyond 1997".

This was followed by a blast from Zhang Junsheng, senior spokesman for the Xinhua news agency, China's *de facto* embassy in Hong Kong. He said "the British side should not meddle in, and has no rights to poke its nose" into the selection of the chief executive, as this was "entirely a matter for China".

The Foreign Office spokesman in Hong Kong described the accusation of meddling as "absurd", and pointed out that the selection process was "a matter for the people of Hong Kong".

What all this means is that China is making it crystal clear that Mrs Chan has no chance of being given the top job after Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule next year.

This is despite the fact that every single public opinion has ranked her as by far the most popular candidate for the post.

Although Britain denies meddling in the selection, it is well known that British officials, from the Governor down, are

keen for Mrs Chan to secure the job.

But they have been careful to keep their support quiet, precisely because they know that any hint of British endorsement would be the kiss of death for her chances.

China has yet to formally indicate its choice of candidate for the post of chief executive, but all the signs are that Peking supports the shipping magnate Tung Che-hwa, though he refuses to confirm whether he is in the running.

Mr Tung's shipping compa-



Anson Chan: Britain's choice for chief executive

ny was saved from bankruptcy by Chinese funds after a long history of alliance with China's bitter rivals in Taiwan.

He recently resigned from the Governor's Executive Council, or cabinet, in a move seen as clearing the way for his candidature.

Also in the race is the controversial and widely disliked Lo Tak-shing, the only candidate who has had the courage to declare his candidacy.

Mr Lo is seen as the man backed by Chinese hardliners who want to impose strict control over Hong Kong.

His position appeared to be advanced when he was given space in the Chinese Communist Party's mouthpiece, the *People's Daily* early this month.

In a long article he outlined a chilling manifesto for the new order, in which he accused Britain of trying to destabilise Hong Kong ahead of the transfer of sovereignty.

He made it clear that democratic reforms would have to be rolled back, welfare spending cut and the education system changed to foster "patriotism and a love for one's race".

Mr Lo suggested political opponents would have no place in the new order.

"No Government can run smoothly amid meaningless political wrangles," he wrote, calling instead for "resolute and highly efficient" government.

The chief executive will be appointed by November. China is now in the process of forming a 400-strong committee to make the choice. It appears only four names will be allowed to go forward for consideration.

China points out that this method of selection introduces a higher degree of consultation into the process of choosing a head of government than was ever seen during a century-and-a-half of British rule, when governors were appointed in London.

However, there are strong doubts that the selection committee will do anything more than endorse a decision made in Peking.

For this reason Hong Kong's largest party, the Democratic Party, has refused to take part in the process, even though China has held out an olive branch to the party by inviting it to become involved.

A former Xinhua official has said the real choice of Hong Kong's first chief executive will be made by the Communist Party's most senior leaders, including President Jiang Zemin.

He is known to have taken an active interest in the matter and sent a strong signal of his preference by seeking Mr Tung out at a gathering of Chinese advisers in Peking and shaking his hand in front of the television cameras.



Crowd control: Riot police guard the area in front of Jakarta's central court yesterday as lawyers failed to reach a settlement in the opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri's battle to return as head of the Indonesian Democracy Party; the case was adjourned for a week. Photograph: AFP

Blacks buy stake in Anglo-American

MARY BRAID
Johannesburg

The drive to transfer economic power to blacks in South Africa has reached a milestone with the decision by Anglo American, the country's biggest corporation, to sell the bulk of its stake in the industrial and media group, Johnnic, to black investors.

The deal, which is politically rather than commercially motivated, mirrors Anglo American's decision in 1964 to sell General Mining to Boer businessmen, following the rise of Afrikaner nationalism. Then, the country's business sector was dominated by the English. General Mining became Gencor, today a multibillion-rand empire, and provided the foundation for the Afrikaner advance into the business sector.

"This deal has to succeed," said one analyst yesterday. "Black business must show they can do it, too."

The £5bn rand (£215m) deal between Anglo American and the National Empowerment Consortium, representing 50 black economic interest groups, took two years to reach fruition. It gives the NEC a 47.1 per cent stake in Johnnic. Anglo American, like every other big white business in South Africa, has been under intense political pressure to make a contribution to black empowerment. As the biggest, its contribution had to be the greatest.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary general who recently put his political career on hold to enter the private sector and become NEC chief negotiator, said the deal was an "historic transaction for the whole of

Africa". In other parts of the continent, nationalism has been the fate of business after black liberation.

The ANC, like the Afrikaner Nationalists, came to power threatening nationalisation but then opted for a more free-market approach. Celebrations of the deal were marred by concern about media ownership and editorial independence at Times Media, part of the Johnnic group, which publishes *Sunday Times*, *Business Day* and *Financial Mail* newspapers.

Black journalists were insulted that a charter, including clauses protecting editors' jobs in the face of editorial interference from future owners, had not been considered essential. Their departure from politics is thought to have been prompted by President Nelson Mandela's decision to appoint Thabo Mbeki, the deputy president, as his unofficial successor. A media empire

could be priceless to Mr Ramaphosa, 10 years younger than Mr Mbeki, in establishing an alternative power base.

In the latest stages of negotiations between Anglo American and the NEC, a row erupted at Times Media over last minute attempts to establish an editorial charter. Journalists were not consulted about the charter, drafted by Nigel Bruce, editor of the *Financial Mail*.

Black journalists were insulted that a charter, including clauses protecting editors' jobs in the face of editorial interference from future owners, had not been considered essential. They complained there was a racist assumption that black owners were more dangerous to a free press than white ones.

Yesterday, Mr Bruce said he feared Mr Ramaphosa and the NEC would interfere with the titles' editorial stance. He said Anglo American bought Times Media in the 1970s to prevent Nationalist businessmen buying the group and using it to support apartheid.

"It has become clear that the objective of this deal is political rather than commercial," Mr Bruce said. "Times Media only constitutes 1-2 per cent of Johnnic's profits, but the new owners consider it one of the most desirable assets."

There are other misgivings. In a country where a few white businesses dominate the commercial sector, there is a fear that black empowerment will do no more than replace six fat white cats with six fat black ones. President Mandela refers to it as "black enrichment" which aims to spread economic benefits more widely among blacks.

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TOUCHDOWN

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Lottery winner is a loser in life

DAVID USBORNE
New York

The parable of Buddy Post is one that should be printed on the back of every lottery ticket. Like the health warning on packets of cigarettes, it would remind players that even if - by some remote chance - they should land the jackpot, the effect on their lives could be ruinous.

Post is a former carnival ride operator who in 1988 won \$16.2m (£10.5m) in the Pennsylvania state lottery. He still has about \$5m (£3.2m) due him in annual payments, but so cursed has been his life by his supposed good fortune that he intends auctioning off those payments later this month.

True, Post, 58, is still in the mansion he bought north of Pittsburgh, and the gas and the telephone are still connected. But the pool is full of rubbish, the rooms are unfurnished and downstairs is stacked with bankruptcy papers.

The misfortunes that have befallen Post in the last eight years have been so numerous as to be almost funny. Indeed, he has sold the film rights to a Hollywood studio that wants to hire Jack Lemmon to portray him. He has been convicted of assault, his sixth wife has left him, he has been the victim of a murder plot hatched by his brother, he has had to give one-third of his winnings to a former landlady who claimed partial ownership of the winning ticket and he is bankrupt.

"Money didn't change me. It changed people around me that I knew, that I thought cared a little about me," he said. "But they only cared about the money. I didn't know it was going to escalate into some kind of nightmare."

With the planned auction of his remaining payments on 26 September, Post is hoping to raise enough money to pay off his debts and buy his mansion outright. Even in this he may be frustrated. The Pennsylvania Lottery is considering blocking the sale on the grounds that it would amount to illegal trading of lottery futures.

No survivors as Russian plane hits mountains

ROLF SODERLUND
Reuter

Oslo — All 141 passengers and crew were feared killed when a Russian airliner crashed into a mountain on the remote Arctic island of Spitzbergen yesterday.

The plane was flying in a relief group of Russian miners and their families who work in the Norwegian coal mining settlement there.

The crash, the worst in Norwegian aviation history, happened as the chartered Tupolev jet approached the island's only airport.

The island governor's office said no survivors had been found and denied a claim from Moscow that five people had escaped from the wreckage.

"This is totally unknown to us and wrong," the Norwegians said.

"They must have walked away from the site without noticing, so that has got to be

wrong." A spokeswoman for the Russian Emergencies Ministry said they based their claim on a report from the crash site.

But a spokesman for Vnukovo Airlines, which had chartered the plane to the coal company that was flying the miners to the settlement, could not confirm this.

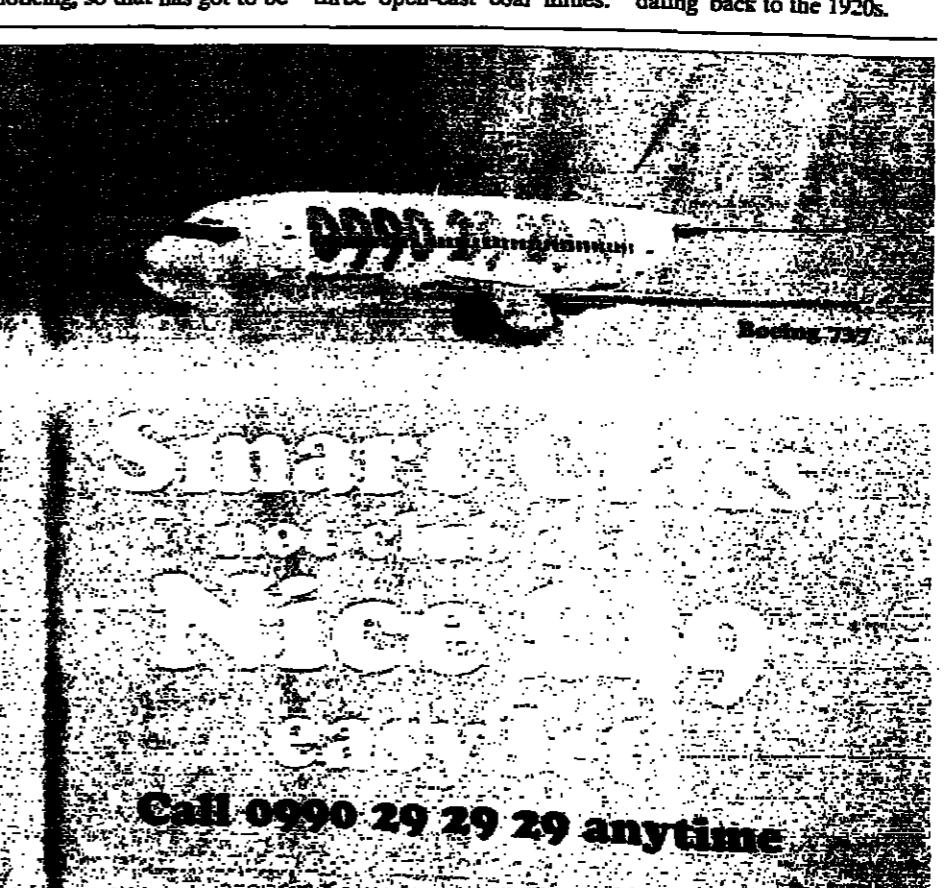
The accident occurred in bad weather six miles east of Longyearbyen.

Air traffic officials said they had lost contact with the aircraft shortly before it was due to land. The jet crashed at a remote site, with no roads nearby.

"No survivors have been found and our first aid staff are returning from the crash site," a local government official said.

The Norwegian aviation inspectorate said the plane was making a normal instrument landing.

The miners were travelling to work in one of the island's three open-cast coal mines.



A cure for dawkins

the leader page

Voters want a clear message, not debate

It's becoming a pattern. Paul Flynn, Clare Short, now Austin Mitchell. Labour dissidents lash out. All hell breaks loose. First Peter Mephistopheles Campbell berates them mercilessly in private for rocking the boat, then he or his anointed representative takes to *Newshawk* to label them as cranks and lone wolves. The slap of the ruler on outstretched palm stings the dissident into back-tracking, usually on the airwaves, making everyone look silly in the process. Thus Mr Mitchell yesterday took to justifying his analogy between Tony Blair and the late Kim Il Sung as a votive to Labour leadership. Such nonsense is a godsend to the spin-doctorate. On Mr Blair's behalf (witness Robin Cook yesterday) they chorus: he is a maverick, the kind of MP who used to complain about Clement Attlee and would still be complaining if the blessed Keir Hardie returned to lead the party.

This won't do at this point in the electoral calendar. Whether right or wrong, there is genuine dismay among many Labour MPs and activists at the direction the party is taking; paradoxically, the tactics of pretending it does not matter only serve to amplify the fact that it does. Mephistopheles et al are left looking even shittier than usual. So yesterday Labour deserved every drop of delighted *schadenfreude* that dropped from Michael Heseltine's lips as he slavered over this latest bout of

indiscipline. Mark that word. No party could or should attempt to silence its oddballs. But a party preparing itself for power, as Labour is, should be able to distinguish a one-off rant from a sustained internal party complaint.

Let us give Mr Mitchell the credit of his original contribution, rather than his embarrassed glosses. He is right in saying that there is widespread resentment in the Labour movement about the style of Tony Blair's leadership. It is a cowardly kind of resentment, admittedly, that gets more vocal when Labour is 21 points ahead in the polls. It would be a lot harder for newspaper and magazine editors to get Labour MPs to pipe up if the Tories' wish-fulfilling claims about the return to them of Middle England were true. But the rumbling goes on, in the ranks of the unions, in the constituencies, on the backbenches. It's there for anyone with ears to hear, even though for most dissidents party spirit still entails public silence.

Criticism of party style has become personalised in the figure of Peter Mandelson, the shadow minister for the civil service, aka spin-doctor in chief, and useful target for most dissident contumely. It is not usually honest criticism. What the dissidents really object to is not party centralisation, or the assertion of authority by the leader, but the kind of policies a Blair government would or would not enact. There can be no pretending that Labour's rank

and file have been converted, woman and man, to Brownism in fiscal policy or Harmanism in education. Many cling to a world view in which, mysteriously, socialism is still attainable; though they would never dream of signing up with Arthur Scargill, they harbour thoughts of social and economic transformation. How many there are who might be described as old Labour still is a matter of guesswork. The fact is, there is a significant slice of the Labour Party that does not believe in new Labourism. If Labour is elected to form the next government it will be in spite of rather than because of them.

This fact, the two strands of Labour, is not a side issue – it matters. The admixture of populism, liberalism, realism – whatever set of issues adequately captures Tony Blair's offer to the nation – is a necessary if not sufficient condition of Labour's success. To that extent the dissidents are wrong, unless they admit they would rather maintain their policy purity in Opposition. Second, in an ideal world old Labourites would be encouraged to shout their views from the roof tops and engage on all fronts, in the interests of wider public debate. What makes for interest in politics is argument: the sharper the dialogue, the more clearly

contested the political terrain, the better. Who would not ask for more party pluralism – in an ideal world?

But the real world, particularly right now, after 17 years of Conservative government, is intolerant of dissent. The constitution of the press, its political biases, mean that debate becomes conflict, disagreement becomes subversion. In these circumstances the Labour leader has no choice but to seek to present his cohorts as a united hand, singing with the exquisite harmony of Welsh choir. And when he hears a gentle tap with the baton.

Tony Blair should re-read the riot act: Dissidence is bad media politics. Dissidents are harming election chances: they are enemies of the Labour Party. In the short run, behaving like the aforementioned Kim Il Sung is precisely what Mr Blair should do. But (it is easy to forget) political parties are voluntary organisations. Mr Blair and his praetorian guard are not lording it over imperial legions. They will have to live with a certain volume of internal complaint. What they need to do is continue what he began yesterday, in seeking to address the people of this country directly over the heads of the dissidents. The public do not really want to plug into an autistic debate about Labour's ideological heritage. What they are more likely to respond to is something – minus the trains and the

hoopla of Chicago – more like the figure President Clinton has been cutting. He has identified a small number of themes on which there are clear differences between the Democrats and the Republicans (and this despite his having moved sharply rightwards in recent months). People here also want to hear about those Labour themes that will only make a difference. And the dissidents who muddy that message will only ever deplete Labour's prospects of making that difference.

Stress and the Nineties child

To most parents, to many more teachers and even most children, the news that one in 10 children suffers from stress will come as deeply overwhelming. Seven or eight out of 10, more like. And should we be surprised? Examination pressures, paedophiles, drugs, diet, traffic, the sorry example of Liam Gallagher. So what do we do? Regret the death of childhood as the "happiest days of our lives"? More realistic to accept that life is pretty stressful – and, thank heaven, challenging, exhilarating and full of the potential for happiness. We should not want to shield our children from too much of it, lest they have nothing left to revel in.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Howard's prisons don't work

Sir: Polly Toynbee is right to argue that the Home Secretary's ironically named "prison works" policy ignores the evidence of what works best in reducing offending ("Howard's prison time-bomb", 28 August).

There was widespread and proper concern about the recent unprepared release of some 500 prisoners. But far less attention has been paid to the continuing threat to public safety of unnecessary reoffending produced by an increasingly punitive penal policy.

An extensive body of research now shows that certain types of work with offenders can reduce recidivism by 20 to 50 per cent more than other approaches. These include highly focused programmes which change offending behaviour and attitudes, teach offenders to restrain aggressive and impulsive behaviour, tackle alcohol and drug problems and provide skills, training and employment. Effective programmes have been developed for different groups including those convicted of aggressive offences, stealing, autocrime, sexual offences, drink-driving and firesetting. These methods produce better results in the community than in custody, but, when applied in prison, they can also significantly cut reoffending on release.

The Government's policy of encouraging a greatly increased use of imprisonment flies in the face of these findings. A rational strategy to reduce crime would involve extending the most effective forms of community supervision to many of the less serious offenders who are now imprisoned. The resulting smaller prison population would relieve tension in jails and enable the Prison Service to provide effective programmes for a higher proportion of those in custody.

PAUL CAVADINO
Chair
Penal Affairs Consortium
London SW9

A cure for the dawkins

Sir: In his article on the relative merits of different religions (27 August), Andrew Brown makes some interesting points but misses the main one:

Whilst he is right to place an emphasis on the behaviour of adherents rather than on their beliefs in making value judgements between different religions, it is more important to focus on the methods used to recruit and retain those adherents. It is in this area that many religious movements offend against basic values and transgress the boundary between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

Unless we suffer from chronic dawkins, most of us will defend a person's right to believe anything or nothing. However, methods used to instil and reinforce those beliefs can be measured against objective standards, and in this respect it is perfectly legitimate to describe one religious movement as better or worse than another. This point was well made in a motion on the Unification Church passed by the General Synod a few years ago, and remains valid.

+JOHN LUDLOW
The Rt Rev John Saxbee
Bishop and Archdeacon of Ludlow
Craven Arms,
Shropshire

Sir: At the beginning of his excellent essay Andrew Brown complains of an attack of the dawkins, a condition named after the well-known atheist. He then goes on to argue that the longevity of a religion, together with the quality of the lives of its adherents, is a good measure of whether or not it is reasonable.

He fails to point out that full-blown dawkins, which he describes as a state where there seems nothing to choose between any religion and another, is in fact a religion in itself. It involves adherence to a faith system (or, perhaps, lack-of-faith system) every bit as demanding as any other, as anyone who has read a little philosophy of science will realise.

Is dawkins, then, a religion worthy of acceptance? I am not in a position to comment upon whether the character of Richard Dawkins' life is of a quality to attract us to dawkins, but the fact that the latter, in its present fanatical form, only arrived on the scene with the incarnation of Richard Dawkins himself must surely lead us to treat it with suspicion.

Canon JOHN INGE
Ely Cathedral

Sir: Alice Thomas Ellis, interviewed in the *Independent Magazine* (24 August), records letters she had received stating that Archbishop Worlock had "closed all the Catholic schools in Portsmouth". This is totally false. Throughout the Archbishop's episcopacy in Portsmouth I was a member of the Diocesan Schools'

Commission. As chairman of that body and as bishop, Derek Worlock was an ardent, active supporter of our Catholic schools. There are 55 Catholic maintained schools and 32 Catholic independent schools in the diocese.

JOHN DOYLE
*Petersfield,
Hampshire*

Paying for a high growth rate

Sir: The simpleton in me says that Paul Ormerod's conclusion "The larger the increase in labour's share of national income (and, as a corollary, the greater the fall in the share of profits), the more marked will be the fall in the growth rate" is a perfectly axiomatic statement ("Don't follow the European model," it's collapsing", 27 August).

To take this to its logical conclusion: if labour were to be paid nothing, corporate profits would be massive, nearly all those profits would, in theory, be available for capital reinvestment; and to and behold, the growth rate of the economy would be huge, providing of course that all the "produce" were to be exported, since nobody (in Britain, for example) could afford to buy anything.

Isn't this though precisely what happens in countries known as the "new tiger economies"? Isn't it also true that once the underpaid population starts to become better educated and their expectations start to rise, they become

interested in sharing some of the wealth that they have helped to create, and then, as you point out, less available to grow the economy, as in the case of Japan?

What Mr Ormerod seems to be suggesting is that Britain, even though we have an educated population, has reversed this trend, and the other countries in Europe should follow our example. But this is strictly a short-term phenomenon (by short-term, I mean several decades). Are we not about to change the government in this country (despite the fact that in its lifetime we have enjoyed a better growth rate than our European neighbours) because the national income is not being shared equally with "labour"?

R C D HICKS
*Managing Director
PMC Specialities International
London W1*

Sir: Since we are talking about a comparison of two averages (1960-73 and 1974-95), one plausible explanation for Britain's relatively improved position is that in the first period we were so truly awful that, in a sense, we got our retaliation in first.

It is clear that Germany and other Western European states are making strenuous efforts to address the problems Paul Ormerod notes. With their considerable underlying strengths (not least in education and infrastructure) it would be surprising if they did not pull off the trick and once again put clear water between themselves and the UK.

GRANT BAIRD
Edinburgh

Democracy in the City

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith is much too pessimistic in concluding that there is no answer to the corporate greed displayed by the directors of our leading companies ("Close the wage gap or everyone will suffer", 19 August).

There is clearly no incentive for fund managers acting on behalf of institutional investors to change the present system for determining directors' pay, since they too are on the same upwardly moving salary escalator.

The solution is to democratise the investment institutions – the pension funds, the unit trusts and insurance funds – so that they represent the interests of the wider community whose money is invested with them and whose interests they should be required to serve.

NIGEL WILKINS
London

Sir: I read with great interest Anna Pavord's article in today's *Independent* (23 August) entitled "Bring on the Olives and Bananas?"

I was delighted to see wonderful hot-weather plants receiving wider attention. However, for those attempting to grow these plants for the first time the information given was a little inaccurate.

Cordyline australis will grow to almost tree height, and leaves approaching 6ft long are not uncommon. *Kniphofia* flower throughout the summer, and vary greatly in both size and colour.

Datura arborea is not hardy. *Ricinus communis*, while spectacular, is one of the most toxic plants known to man and provided the poison that killed Georgi Markov. *Cannas* come in all sizes, from Lucifer 18in high to Wyoming nearly 10ft tall. *Musa basjoo*, while being the hardest and a very quick-growing banana, will not grow 10 feet in a single season.

Omitted from the list were such glorious plants as *Hedychium*, the fragrant ginger lilies, and the whole family of palms.

IAN B DUNNE
Southampton

7

Men behaving hazardously

Sir: The onslaught continues. The Royal College of Nursing is the latest body to chastise the male sex for "behaving badly" ("Men really are behaving badly – and only women can save them", 27 August).

Real men must fight back now if they are to reverse the dangerous tendency to feminise all behaviour.

According to the report from the College's Men's Health Forum, we men tend to see our bodies as machines, "focusing on being fit, strong, energetic, and in control". Good. We are also less likely to seek help for problems because of our need to feel self-sufficient.

Excellent. In an age when individual autonomy is being eroded by increasing state intervention, it is precisely these qualities which should be held up as an example to both men and women.

If greater risk-taking leads to an earlier death, so be it. Social, scientific, and artistic experimentation have always been generated in the male-dominated public sphere. The supposed feminine attributes of restraint and safety-consciousness are positively dangerous. These qualities are a recipe for a stagnant, dull world, where everyone lives until they are at least 120.

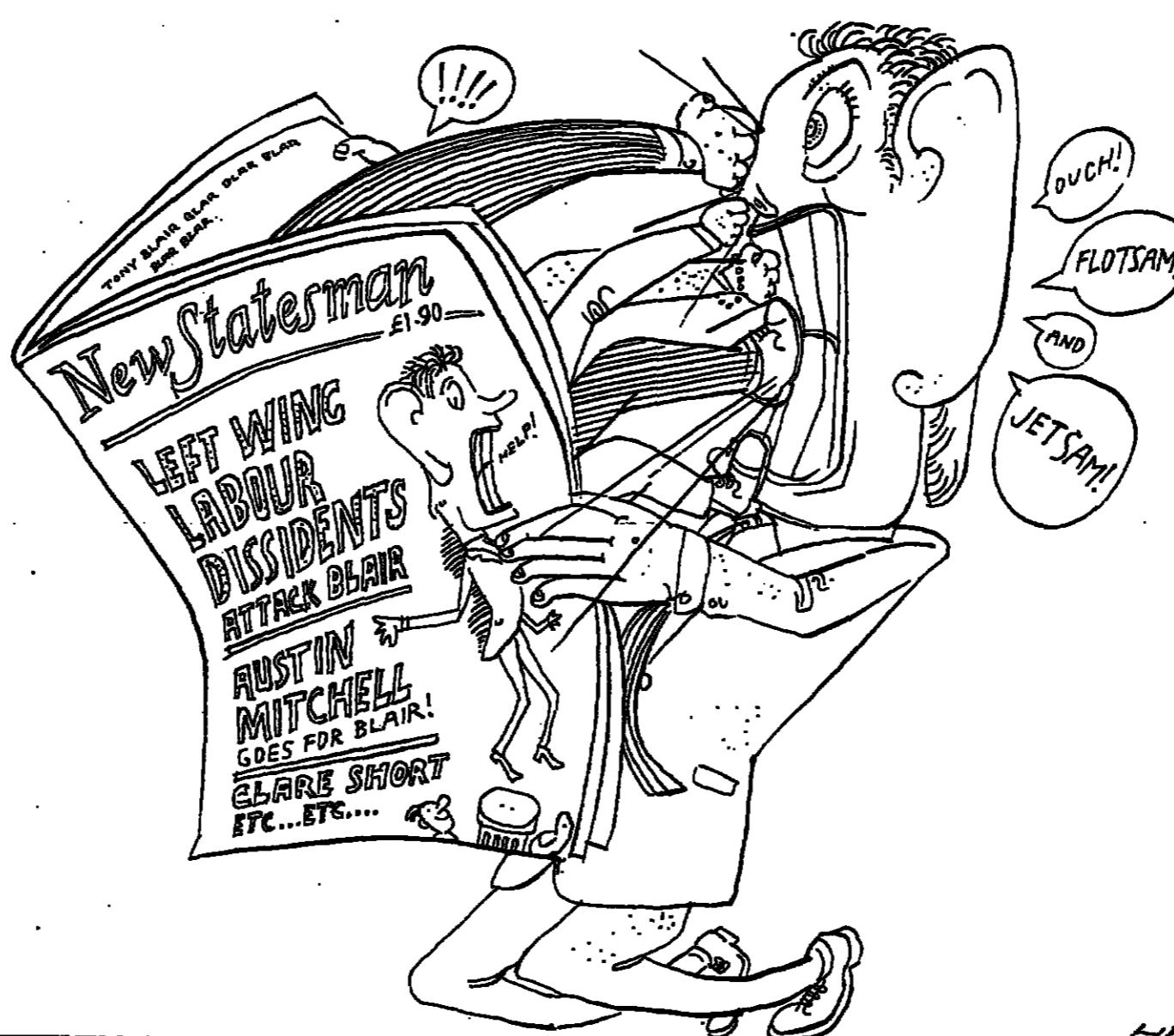
HUGH PETO
Edinburgh

The sins of the smokers ...

Sir: If "living with a heavy smoker more than doubles your risk of heart attacks" (report, 28 August), maybe the increased incidence of heart disease among the middle-aged, about which we hear so much, is partly attributable to children lived with heavily smoking parents.

I have seen no references to research into whether or not the effects of passive smoking during childhood are discernible in the health now of those who were brought up in the 1940s and 1950s, when the wartime stress and post-war food rationing turned many parents into heavy smokers. It would be interesting to know.

JANET GODDEN
Oxford



Pop-up magazine

Men behaving hazardously

Sir: The onslaught continues. The Royal College of Nursing is the latest body to chastise the male sex for "behaving badly" ("Men really are behaving badly – and only women can save them", 27 August).

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HUGH PETO
Edinburgh

analysis

A blind eye to history

Robert Fisk looks into a wave of Holocaust denial that has seized the Arab world

A new Arabic imprint of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* has been thundering off the presses of publishing company high in the hills above Beirut. With its cover adorned with a swastika and a photograph of a young, earnest-looking Hitler, 2,500 copies have already been distributed to Lebanese bookshops.

In his windowless printing offices in Kesrouan – a bunker-like building whose walls of pre-stressed concrete would have appealed to the author of the book – Selim Sader agrees that Hitler was "not a very nice man". But, he adds, "If you ask the Nazis, they would have told you something different."

The preface to the edition – originally printed in 1963 and also distributed in Iraq – would certainly not have offended the Nazis. Louis al-Haj, the former editor-in-chief of the Beirut newspaper *An Nahr*, who died two years ago, tells readers that Hitler's theories of nationalism, government and race are "eternal" issues; that Hitler – "one of the few great men who almost stopped the passage of history" – left behind him an "intellectual heritage". Only towards the end does Mr al-Haj acknowledge that the Nazis set up "a single-party dictatorship... of force and violence and Machiavellianism". At no point does he mention the most abiding and dangerous theme of Hitler's only book: his hatred of the Jews.

Not Issa Alwej, the Beirut publisher of *Mein Kampf* who – like the Lebanese printers and the late Louis al-Haj – is a Christian. Hitler, he agreed in his tiny bookstore off Hamra Street, was an evil man who would ultimately have placed Arabs on the same level as Jews – as non-Aryans to be destroyed.

But then Mr Alwej set off into an argument that is today heard ever more frequently and disturbingly throughout the Middle East: "It is not true that six million Jews were killed in the Second World War," he said. When I told him he was wrong – that documentation and historical research had conclusively proven this figure to be true – he brusquely changed his argument.

"If Hitler did kill six million Jews, then I am against the killing of these six million. But I am against the killing of even one citizen of any country. The

sion of Lebanon – in which more than 17,000 Arabs, mostly civilians, were killed – and fantasised in a letter to President Reagan that Yasser Arafat, under siege in Beirut, was comparable to Hitler in his last days of encirclement in Berlin.

But the new wave of historical denial in the Middle East appears to have sprung from the growing – if tardy – realisation that Israel, supported by the most pliant of all US administrations, would win whatever peace was made with the Arabs, and that the "peace process", heavily in Israel's favour (since it guarantees no military withdrawal of Palestinian capital in Jerusalem and no Palestinian state), would be imposed on the Middle East whether or not the Arabs liked it.

If that "process" is now regarded here as already buried – and Israel's determination to build yet more Jewish homes on Arab land as part of the funeral service – this has of course not stymied the growing refusal to understand and to concede the facts of the Holocaust.

Roger Garaudy, the French philosopher whose book *Les mythes fondateurs de la politique israélienne* calls into question the very nature of the Holocaust, has now been honoured with an Arabic edition of his work, published by the El Ghad el Arabi press in Cairo. Last month Mr Garaudy undertook a tour of Arab capitals, received by Vice President Abd Halim Khaddam in Damascus, by Lebanese intellectuals – both Christian and Muslim – in Beirut and by the Jordanian Association of Writers in Amman. He was feted in all three cities and given prominent – and almost exclusively favourable – coverage in the Arab press.

Only in Beirut was he challenged – in a brave and powerful article by the Christian writer Elias Khoury. "Arab culture... has not seriously dealt with the terrifying significance of the idea of the 'Final Solution,'" Mr Khoury complained. "Like fools, we rush to ignore the whole issue and to praise anyone who makes light of – and minimises the importance of – the Nazi extermination camps. Doesn't the plan to exterminate the Jews... carry in with it the seeds of the extermination of every other race or people?" Arabs should consider the Holocaust objectively, Mr Khoury continued, "as the



A long dark shadow: the new Arabic edition of *Mein Kampf*, now rolling off the presses in Beirut

incarnation of the most blatant form of European racism... from which we continue to suffer".

In the Saudi-owned daily *El-Hayat*, Abdul Wahab Badrakhan suggested that the Arabs were being duped by their own refusal to accept the existence of the Holocaust. They stupidly feared, he said, that acknowledgement of Hitler's crimes against the Jews would serve to minimise Israel's brutality against the Arabs. But it was ridiculous "to deny a crime against humanity of which the victims were Jews and others who had fallen into the hands of the Nazis, for the sole purpose of proving another crime against humanity" (the expulsion of Palestinians from

their homes in 1948) whose victims were Arabs suffering at the hands of Israeli Jews."

Inevitably, Holocaust-denial has become institutionalised in some Arab countries. Most refused to show Stephen Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*, citing a variety of specious reasons for their decision. In Egypt, the government banned the film on the grounds that it contained "too many murders".

When I worked on a series of three films in 1993 for Britain's Channel 4 and the American Discovery channel, under the title *From Beirut to Bosnia*, part of the second film recorded the fate of a Jewish family during the Holocaust, a family whose survivors now live in the home of an exiled Palestinian in pre-

three months later, the first time that a Lebanese audience was able to see a film which dealt with the Holocaust.

There is, of course, no exclusivity in historical denial. When the same film series was shown in the United States, an Israeli lobby group brought commercial pressure on Discovery not to re-show the series. They complained, among other things, that I should never have referred to the West Bank as "occupied" – it was at the time occupied by thousands of Israeli troops as most of it still is – and claimed that a pregnant Palestinian girl whom the Israeli army refused to assist to hospital during a curfew was not in fact expecting a child. She later gave birth to her sup-

posedly non-existent baby, but Discovery caved in and refused a second showing to the series – thus ironically ensuring that the Holocaust sequence also disappeared.

This is only one small example of the problem encountered by anyone trying to report the facts of Israeli history. Reporters, for example, who regularly refer to the expulsion of Palestinians by Israelis in 1948 – at least 750,000 were driven from their homes – regularly receive letters from supporters of Israel who accuse them of anti-semitism, adding untruthfully, that the Palestinians are left under the orders of their own political leadership. Pioneering work by Israeli historians, such as Benny Morris, have helped to document the deliberate expulsion of the Palestinians, but the myths live on.

Similarly with Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, who spent part of the Second World War in Berlin urging the Germans on to greater military victories in the Middle East. Haj Amin is a dark and frightening figure for most Israelis but a hero to tens of thousands of Palestinians – Arafat attended his funeral in Beirut in the 1970s – because he refused to accept Jewish immigration into pre-war Palestine and never agreed to the kind of humiliating peace Arafat eventually signed.

Israelis claim that Haj Amin urged Palestinians to massacre Jews in the 1930s – which is untrue. Equally, however, Arabs refuse to believe that Haj Amin specifically asked the Nazis to send Europe's Jews into exile – which he did. Haj Amin also spent some weeks in Bosnia recruiting Muslims to fight for Hitler against Russia and against Tito's partisan army in Yugoslavia itself – a deed which Serbs still remember with frightening venom but which Arabs have forgotten. Again, it is an Israeli researcher, Zvi Eipeleg, who has written the fairest account of Haj Amin's life.

Yet myth and historical denial persist. Perhaps that is the nature of war – that until a conflict ends, its history cannot be corrected. But the wickedness of the Holocaust – its uniqueness and genocidal intent – have set a test which Arabs have repeatedly failed, and failed for political reasons.

No Muslim in the Middle East has any problem in accepting the fact of the Turkish genocide of the Armenians in 1915, even though these atrocities were committed by fellow Muslims. But the Holocaust requires an empathy which a humiliated Arab world cannot find within itself.

This refusal is as much a danger to Arabs as it is to Jews, for the evil that was done in Europe could effortlessly have been committed against Muslims, Christians and Jews in the Middle East. And the seeds of racism – as Elias Khoury so boldly pointed out – still lie in the soil of Europe, against Arabs as well as Jews.

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The witches of Edinburgh – Poles apart

When I first arrived in Edinburgh for the Festival, I overheard two people in the Assembly Rooms talking. One said something rather cynical or pretentious, and the other one said, "I think we're having one of those Fringe conversations, aren't we?", and they both laughed. But talking and swapping of gossip does take up a lot of time here – looking back to see what I have done at the Fringe, I find that, like many other people, I spent a lot of my time in the Pleasance Courtyard discussing a very important point, i.e., what we would be doing if we weren't having a pleasant time sitting in the Pleasance Courtyard.

During the rest of the year it is just a quiet university backwater – on my first day here I met a middle-aged man staring mournfully into the merry maelstrom of outdoor tables and drinkers and saying to himself, "That's my parking space in there!" – but for the Fringe month it is a place to drink and jostle and talk.

Or rather, to listen. Two weeks ago, for instance, I was asking Ralph Oswick of the Bath Natural Theatre Company what he had seen on the Fringe that was good.

"Well, I've seen the travelling Polish version of Macbeth."

"How was it?"

"I was disappointed."

"Not good?"

"Oh, no, it was good enough, even if you know no Polish. But I was disappointed because when I went in, there were three very big ladies going in front of me, and I just knew from the look of them that they were going to be the three witches. They sat in front of me looking very threatening and I was waiting for the moment when they would leap up dramatically to the stage, when I heard one of them say to another, 'Oh, dear – I didn't know it was going to be in Polish...!'"

But it's not just the Fringe – it's real life as well. We were having dinner one Saturday night in a nice little restaurant called Keeper's, with a big room off to one side that was



Miles Kington

full of a noisy American party, which we could hear but not see. They all fell silent at one point for the leader to address them as follows.

"All right, can I just talk to you about worship tomorrow morning? Now, in the church we're attending I don't know if they will be using ONE large chalice or several small chalices pouring down into smaller cups, so if any of you has any problem with either approach, please let me know..."

Weird. Even notices that I have jotted down have a slightly odd flavour. There was one I spotted in the Royal Commonwealth Pool when we went for a swim: "No

Access To General Purpose Room". There was a blackboard I noticed in Portobello, outside a pub on the beach called The Tides Inn, which was the sort of blackboard that normally says something conventional like "Lunch served from 12 to 3" but which in this instance said pleadingly, "NORMA DON'T FORGET YOU'RE WORKING TONIGHT".

I also copied down some graffiti in the gents' loo at the Botanical Gardens, partly because some of it was in Gaelic and partly because it was the gratifying sort of graffiti that begins with one line and is then added to by other people. It went like this:

1. "Saoi Alba! Free Scotland! Thigur la..."

2. (In a different hand) "This Canadian heartily agrees with this."

3. (In a different, scornful scrawl) "Oh yes, back to the old clan and feudal system..."

I must go back at the end of the week and see if the debate has continued.

Even our own little show,

"The Death of Tchaikovsky –

a Sherlock Holmes Mystery" (adv) has produced useful comments. A microbiologist came to see it one night and left a note with the stage crew saying: "You might tell the cast that you catch cholera from a bacterium, not a virus". The script has been amended accordingly. And one night my old music master from school, Noel de Jongh, came to see the show (in which I briefly play the euphonium) and could be heard saying to his neighbour, "I used to teach King-ton music, you know!", then adding, "Not that you'd know it."

Actually, it was Noel who came up with my best overheard remark at the Fringe. Afterwards in the Pleasance Courtyard I heard him saying to someone: "I had an aunt who smoked so many cigarettes that her voice went deeper and deeper as she got older. Towards the end of her life she could easily manage the bass chorus part in *The Messiah*".

Now she would have been a wow on the Fringe.

the commentators

• Why men will not be needing women

The old stereotypes are outdated. Modern males are learning to look after themselves and others

Men, says modern myth, are barely civilised, occasionally lovable incompetents who eventually turn into sick, sad old gits. Without women, we would fall apart.

This message was hammered home again this week by the Royal College of Nursing. Men who don't live with women, said the ladies with the lamps, slip into a downward and often fatal spiral of fags, booze and junk food.

We all know what they mean. The BBC's *Men Behaving Badly* provides weekly proof that we just can't look after ourselves without nannying.

But do we really need women? I think not – at least not in many of the ways that these myths would have us believe. Without women, we do not have to turn into emotional cripples and inadequate orphans. Just as women today can enjoy the achievement and fulfilment of being whole in their own right without men, so is the converse true for many men.

We have in the past sub-contracted part of our lives to our female intimates. Without a woman to talk to many of us have had been unable to gain access to our feelings, to our emotional depths. Women have fed us, cared for us, mediated a social world for us, whether it is sending Christmas cards to Aunt Beryl or getting them a poisonously brew for men and women.

It is not one from which many younger men, such as myself (I am 35), wish to sip. We want to live full lives.

That means being able to take care of ourselves. We can cook, make a home, nurture others. We even send Christmas cards to Aunt Beryl. We are ready and willing to be good fathers.

All this isn't easy. Psychologists will tell you that it is developmentally more complicated for males than females to learn how to nurture both themselves and others. These are traditionally the skills of motherhood. A girl can internalise them since her mother is her role model.

A boy's task, in contrast, is to separate and differentiate himself from his mother. That is why, perhaps, so many men are learning these all-important skills later in life, in coun-

selling situations away from family. history may judge to be an extraordinary act of collective anger. And so, the myth goes, we are increasingly condemned to misery, a half-life of ill-health and unhappiness followed by an early death.

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Nevertheless, men are changing probably more quickly than ever in history, even if it remains easy to find numerous examples of our more antiquated models. We are part of a long-standing and seemingly unstoppable process in which social groups are breaking down into their individual members, a process in which women have forged well ahead of men. Such change demands greater personal self-sufficiency and less reliance on the opposite sex.

Men are also getting together to talk, recognising that we have to communicate with each other at a deeper level. Though now married with a child on the way, I know I must maintain intimate male friendships and not let them atrophy amid the busyness of life.

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This is not a misogynist's charter. The fact that men leading social change need women less than their fathers did is not an act of aggression. It is a decision to become full rather than half-dead people. As such, it is as important and valid as has been women's struggle to overcome discrimination in the workplace.

The fact that we will need women less does not mean that we will love them less or enjoy being with them less. In many ways, the skills that younger men are learning will make men and women better companions.

It should also mean that when our partners die or leave us, we will not just light up, head for the boozers and put one foot in the grave.

BOOK REVIEW

Boomerang: Clinton's Health Security Effort and the Turn against Government in US Politics

Theda Skocpol

Norton £22

A leaf out of Bill's book

There are very few books that Tony Blair and his closest advisers should read between now and the next election, but this is one of them.

Boomerang is a riveting thriller-like account of Bill Clinton's failed attempt in the first years of his presidency to introduce "affordable, quality health care for all Americans".

This was something for which there was huge support in a country where costs are out of control while growing numbers of Americans – 41 million at the last count – enjoy little or no cover.

Its interest here lies less in its focus on health – no one is proposing radical NHS reform – but in its chilling account of what went wrong and why.

For, as Theda Skocpol explains, in 1992 Americans elected a moderate Democrat, committed to fiscal prudence and reducing America's monumental deficit, a man who had kindled "enormous hope for people who want to address America's deepening social ills and inequities, in part through public initiatives". Right though the race had been, it was clear,

Professor Skocpol says, that "substantial majorities of Americans wanted the Clinton presidency to succeed."

For Clinton, read Blair in up to nine months' time – unless something very dramatic happens to the opinion polls between now and then.

Barely two years after his election, Clinton's health plan lay in ruins. It also provided the focus that allowed the resurgence of the anti-Government Republican right, producing a Republican Congress for the first time in 30 years and Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America", which, despite its failure, has engendered an anti-Government mood to the point where Skocpol, a Professor of Government at Harvard, judges that other key programmes such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are at risk – witness Clinton's recent signing of a Bill containing draconian cuts in welfare payments.

What trapped Clinton, Skocpol calculates, were traits that are marked in New Labour's stance

would not raise taxes; he tried to anticipate Republican criticism by taking Republican ground; he was careful not to appeal to the poor – the Democrats' traditional base – but to the "hard-pressed" middle classes. And his rhetoric is acutely familiar in Blair's speeches.

What ditched Clinton, Skocpol judges, was his inability to raise taxes in return for the greater security – in this case over health care – that Americans craved. What resulted was a scheme involving a mass of regulation to release cash from the existing system by other means – a programme that the Republicans right presented as "big government" but equally as cuts to existing middle-class beneficiaries, a problem not

What trapped Clinton were traits that are marked in new Labour's stance

unrelated to the Blair/Brown promise to save before they spend.

Clinton's efforts were also hampered by distraction at crucial moments (by Somalia, free trade and crises in Moscow and Haiti) and by a hostile media that failed to explain a plan the American public never really understood, concentrating on the heat of the political battle rather than shedding light on what was involved – a criticism some may make of the media here.

The parallels cannot be pushed too far. The US is not the UK. Blair does not have anything as grand as Clinton's health plan on the stocks. But there are big ideas for changes to benefits, pensions, welfare to work and education and training in Labour's locker which in a "no more taxes" environment will involve changes that will be painful in other ways. Less is the argument for them and – despite Clinton's anticipated victory in November – the agenda here could switch as it has in the US to how to cut spending and programmes, not how to create or sustain the security for which voters in the US in 1992, and in the UK in 1996, say they crave.

NICHOLAS TIMMINS

The demise of Corporate Man



Will fat cats die out as the big company gets taken over by the entrepreneur?



Looking to the future: the big corporate boardroom may be on the wane

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

A couple of months ago I was preparing to give a lecture to business students in Barcelona when the dean turned to me and said: "What we have to teach these people is they are not going to be executives in large corporations – that is what they think – but instead that they will have to make their way in small companies, or maybe even start their own ones."

Now compare that comment with the news last week that the president and chief operating officer of AT&T, the giant US telephone company, was leaving to join a new, tiny wireless communications firm called *Associated Communications*. Alex Mandel can apparently both make more money and have more fun by being in on the ground floor of a small company than by getting in a giant one.

The link is obvious. A generation ago the majority of young people who wanted a career in business joined estab-

lished firms, most probably large ones. The opportunities and the rewards were much greater than those in small and medium-sized companies. Nowadays the balance has shifted for new graduates and established executives alike.

Of course for some there is still the option of joining a big company. The anecdotal evidence is that this has been the best year for graduate recruitment since the late 1980s.

Equally, for some people the lure of heading one of the half dozen largest companies in the world would be sufficient attraction to stick around. But

for many new graduates working for a big company is neither attractive nor practicable – a lot

do not want that sort of job and there are not enough jobs around even for those who do.

There has been much less discussion of why this process is happening, perhaps because it is still only half-understood.

But clearly during the 1980s something happened to the comparative advantage of large

companies: size became less important to success, people who dislike the business community regard corporate downsizing as some kind of sadistic exercise which top executives relished. While some might have enjoyed the buzz of "taking tough decisions" as they would have put it, for most people it was deeply disturbing to find that a household name division had to shut down completely because some little upstart could do the same thing better and cheaper.

Why size should become less

important is unclear. It almost

certainly has something to do with the development of information technology, which gives

small firms most of the advantages hitherto available only to large ones. It will have something

to do with the development of the financial system which can finance management buyouts and start-ups. (This newspaper was, when it was founded 10 years ago, the largest start-up ever financed by the City.)

But I think there is a social

force at work here too: the rise

of individualism and self-con-

fidence among the young has

made climbing a corporate

hierarchy less attractive than

working in smaller, less struc-

tured groups. If, in addition,

people are likely to earn more

from working in smaller units,

then the case for *Corporate Man*, the title of Anthony Sampson's recent book on the subject, becomes weak indeed.

There is a further twist to this

social shift. Large companies

are finding it more and more

of a struggle to attract and retain

a new share-option scheme.

What has changed is the growth

in authority will be much more

marked in the smaller firms, in

the organisations that finance

them, and in the specialist adver-

sers that help them. Talented

individuals will matter more too,

they'll be the best of those business

students in Barcelona and Alex

Mandel in the States.

Think back 100 years and see the parallel. Governments left the economy pretty much alone. International commerce and finance were enormously important. There were a few giant companies but most were tiny compared with today. Entrepreneurs and innovation were growing explosively. And business people were rewarded as and when their partnerships made money; not because the executive remuneration committee decided to implement a new share-option scheme.

For Freud, a myth like Oedipus marrying his mother enclosed the key to consciousness and sexuality; elements in such stories prefigured the symbolic content of individual dreams and the personal struggles reflected therein. At the same time, anthropologists were beginning to study the beliefs of peoples who had little or no contact with Western or Classical culture and discovering features in common. The structuralist school of anthropologists, led by Claude Lévi-Strauss, proposed a grid-like common architecture, founded on linguistics, which inspired a rich crop of studies but these methods of pursuing the meaning of myth have given way to more historical interjections, concentrating on the social context in which certain stories flourish.

A new tolerance of fantasy –

indeed a fresh hunger for the

marvellous – is rehabilitating mythical phantasmagoria as a topic of interest and a human resource. Poets no longer refer derisively to a "myth city", as Philip Larkin did; Arthurianism is flourishing in England again, and on the whole it's acknowledged that the difference between a lie and a story, as the novelist Paula Fox once wrote, is that a lie conceals the truth, but a story tries to uncover it.

Monday, Epistemology

THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES



WEEK 4 DAY 5

Myth

VISITING LECTURER: Marina Warner

A final examination will be set at the end of term.

All graduates will be awarded a diploma and the ten best

results will receive a year's subscription to the *Independent*

This narrative legacy is usually aligned with a low oral, as opposed to a high literary tradition, and it reflects human appetite for entertainment, for trespass, scandal, violence, gore, sex, shock-horror, and the inexplicable ways of fate. Myths relate the deeds of men and women, divinities and other, with inexhaustible inventiveness. (I just came across a new mythical incantatory permutation in a story from Central Asia: a young mother, recently widowed, is given her own future husband to wet-nurse and raise until he's old enough to marry her.) The mythical tradition also communicates highly coloured and dramatically inflected collective histories of peoples (*The Mahabharata*, *The Iliad*, *The Mahabharata*) into which are knotted the shared values and beliefs of their hearers. If they are authored – by Homer, for example – the author acts as a mouthpiece of a common poem or body of legends. When these kinds of stories are home-grown (the hero Cuchullain eating the salmon of knowledge), they used to be pushed into the back room labelled "the childhood of the race" and considered suitable for juvenile reading only.

It was during the Renaissance that the mythology of Greece and Rome were first recovered and re-interpreted

with enthusiasm, the humanists digging in archives and libraries for manuscripts and translating and retelling them with relish: the Palazzo Te, in Mantua, built by Giulio Romano for his friend and patron the Duke, includes a tremendous vertiginous Fall of the Giants (from Hesiod) and a reception room in which the story of Cupid and Psyche is painted in sportive and voluptuous fresco. No outsider would imagine that this palace belonged to a Christian prince in the most powerful

obituaries/gazette

The Rev Eric Heaton

In 1979 Eric Heaton became Dean of Christ Church, Oxford. It is an unusual and demanding job, combining the offices of Dean of a cathedral and Head of a college. But no one could have been better suited to fill these roles with distinction.

Heaton had already served two colleges in Oxford and Cambridge. He had been first Chaplain, then Dean and Fellow, and latterly Tutor in Theology at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and had been Chaplain, Fellow and Tutor at St John's College, Oxford. He had also served two cathedrals, having been Canon (latterly Chancellor) at Salisbury and Dean of Durham.

He brought to Christ Church just what it needed: decisive leadership, robust good sense, and a deep concern, not only for academic values, but for value in general. And, with all this, affability and infectious good humour. He quelled warring factions and instigated much-needed reforms – was it not obvious that, in addition to its hundred and one other committees, an academic institution ought to have an academic

committee? Would the cathedral not obviously benefit from a registrar to oversee its day-to-day administration?

I have mentioned his concern for academic values. Naturally he was keen that graduates and undergraduates should do well in their examinations and their research. But, like a former Master of Balliol, he hoped above all that they would acquire the ability to recognise when a man is talking rot.

He thought that a college ought to produce men and women who would benefit the world, not just by their possessing this or that expertise, but by being people with humanity of outlook and clarity of vision. He believed also in the value of a sense of community, not only amongst present members of the college, but also amongst former members. One of his last acts as Dean was to bring about the creation of the Christ Church Association to foster just such a sense of mutual affection and common interest.

Naturally he valued clarity and good sense in the academic field; and not just for their

own sake. He also thought it important to communicate what was valuable in academic studies to a wider world. His own academic expertise lay in the field of Old Testament studies. But he was impatient with the minutiae of academic research, and, for the most part, his books were aimed at making the fruits of scholarship accessible to others. What he produced were not tired decocations, but works which were fresh, lively and stimulating: notably *Every Day Life in Old Testament Times* (1956), *The Hebrew Kingdoms* (1963), and especially his first book, *His Servants the Prophets* (1949), later enlarged as *The Old Testament Prophets*, and still being reissued.

But he was an original thinker too, especially in his treatment of the school tradition of the Old Testament. His interest in this was already apparent in his earlier works, and explicit in his most obviously scholarly book, *Solomon's New Men* (1974). And this topic would have been further explored in the Bampton Lectures which he had been due to give in 1980. As it turned out, how-

ever, his becoming Dean of Christ Church led him to shelve these plans, and it was not until 1994 that he finally returned to them. He was again invited to give the Bampton Lectures, and published then as *The School Tradition of the Old Testament*. There were, no doubt, a number of reasons why he found the schoolmen congenial. Certainly they were sophisticated and urbane. They also faced theological difficulties with honesty and clarity of mind. But what he admired above all was their attitude to goodness, to moral value. Like them he believed in objective value, and like them he believed in our natural ability to discern it. It is not that we rely on some special revelation about the nature of God and his commands to enable us to know how to behave. Rather our knowledge of God comes through our natural, if God given, power of understanding what is good.

This attitude to the relation between God and morality also shaped his views about the duty of the Church. He was highly suspicious of doctrine, at any rate he thought that the Church

should not teach people to believe unintelligible things. He did think that it should help to teach people about morality, but emphatically not morality which was peculiar to Christians, but that morality which it was possible for all people of good will to discern.

If his theological views were more conservative, his views on liturgy were more conservative. But there was no contradiction here. He valued decorum and transparency. He was suspicious equally of charismatic enthusiasm and of ritual. He thought that a service should be, like prayer in George Herbert's words, "Heaven in ordinary".

Eric Heaton did not hold in high regard very much contemporary work in Theology or Biblical Studies. In many cases he thought that he recognised it. An undoubted exception was the work of C.H. Dodd, in his time the leading New Testament scholar in the country, and the general director of the *New English Bible* – a work he much admired, if God given, power of

understanding what is good. Too that they should have complemented each other so perfectly. Throughout their married life, in Cambridge, Salisbury, Oxford and Durham, their house was a place which radiated friendship and warmth. It was a place where academics and rugby footballers, soldiers and business people, the distinguished and the ordinary could feel equally at home.

Hugh Rice

Eric William Heaton, priest and theologian: born 15 October 1920; ordained deacon 1944, priest 1945; Curate of St Oswald's, Durham 1944–45; Chaplain, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge 1945–46; Dean and Fellow 1946–53; Canon Residentiary, Salisbury Cathedral 1953–60; Chancellor 1956–60; Tutor in Theology, Official Fellow and Chaplain, St John's College, Oxford 1960–74; Senior Tutor 1967–73; Dean of Durham 1974–79; Dean of Christ Church, Oxford 1979–91; Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University 1984–91; DD Lambeth 1991; married 1951 Rachel Dodd (two sons, two daughters); died Oxford 24 August 1996.



Heaton: valued decorum and transparency. Photograph: News Team

Sylvia Fisher

Sylvia Fisher, the much-loved Australian dramatic soprano whose London operatic career spanned well over a quarter of a century, had never professionally appeared on stage before, at the age of 38, she made her Covent Garden debut in December 1948 as Leonore in *Fidelio*.

Specialising in the German repertory, she went on to sing Wagner's Elsa, Sieglinde, Gutrune, Senta and Isolde, but her greatest success at Covent Garden was undoubtedly the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, a role which suited her vocally, dramatically and temperamentally. Another very sympathetic part was Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*, and after leaving Covent Garden in 1964, she sang many of the other roles in Britten operas created by Joan Cross, and herself created one, Miss Wingrave, in Britain's television opera, *Owen Wingrave*.

Sylvia Fisher was born in Melbourne, and studied there at the Albert Street Conservatorium with Mary Campbell. While a student she sang Hermione in Lully's *Cadmus et Hermione* at the Comedy Theatre, her only stage appearance until her arrival in Britain. After winning the Melbourne Sun Aria Contest, in which she sang "Elisabeth's Greeting" from *Tannhäuser*, she embarked on a career as a concert singer, while studying further with Adolf Spivakovsky, to whom she attributed her later success.

A regular broadcaster with the Australian Broadcasting Commission, she sang much oratorio – Bach's *Mass in B minor*, Handel's *Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt*, Beethoven's *Miss Solemnis* and *Ninth Symphony*, Brahms' *German Requiem* and

the Verdi *Requiem* – but she also sang several operatic roles (*Donna Anna* in *Don Giovanni*, *Ortrud* in *Lohengrin* and *Aida*) and gave many *lieder* recitals.

After the Second World War she decided to go to London, booking a passage in October 1947. Although she carried a letter of introduction to Sir David Webster, the general administrator of the Covent Garden Opera Company, it was not until a year after her arrival – and after five auditions – that she was engaged, making her debut on 9 December 1948 in *Fidelio*. When the German director Friedrich Schramm heard that she had never appeared on any stage before he said: "Good! All you need to do is to leave your hands at your sides and sing. Let the music speak for itself."

This excellent advice she followed for the rest of her career. Though by now a trifle mature to look convincing as a boy, Sylvia Fisher scored a considerable success as Leonore / Fidelio. Her warm-toned, resonant voice was greatly admired, as was her excellent diction (*Fidelio*, like most of the Covent Garden repertory at that time, was sung in English) and the dignity of her stage bearing. Her other roles during the 1948/49 season were Countess Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Third Norn in *Götterdämmerung*.

The following season, by now an established and popular member of the company, Fisher took on three new roles, two of them destined to be among her finest. Her first Marschallin, though only a sketch of the superb portrayal that she was later to achieve, was none the less interesting.

A gentle, radiantly sung Elsa in *Lohengrin* was followed by



Fisher as Isolde in *Tristan und Isolde*, 1958. Photograph: Houston Rogers Collection / The Theatre Museum

Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*, another characterisation that was to develop with the years until it became a performance worthy to compare with that of the great Lotte Lehmann.

The 1950/51 season opened

with *The Flying Dutchman*, but Senta was never one of her more congenial Wagner roles; her Gutrune in *Götterdämmerung*, though, was more successful.

That season Sylvia Fisher

new confidence and authority fostered by Kleiber's own love for and intimate knowledge of the score, were added to the womanly warmth and dignified resignation already featured in her characterisation of the Marschallin.

Even more surprising was her mastery of a part that she sang on the Covent Garden Company Spring Tour, but never in London. On 13 March 1956 the Theatre Royal, Birmingham was filled with Sylvia Fisher's admirers, who had come to hear her sing her first Brünnhilde in *Die Walküre*; the conductor was Reginald Goodall, and although the consensus of opinion was that Sieglinde remained her finest Wagner role, Fisher's Brünnhilde, ardently sung and characterised with youthful enthusiasm, roused great admiration.

Her last new role at Covent Garden for many years was Mère Marie in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, another rôle that she had created in 1952. Sylvia Fisher made her Italian débüt, singing Sieglinde at the Rome Opera, where Kleiber was again the conductor. She also sang Gutrune in Bologna, native city of her husband, the violinist Ubaldo Gardini, whom she married in 1953.

Meanwhile in January that year Fisher tackled her most ambitious assignment so far: Isolde. First she went to Berlin to study the part with Frieder Leider, one of the greatest Isoldes of the previous generation. Although certain critics forecast that the rôle would be too heavy for her, Sylvia Fisher's Isolde was a great success.

The authority she had gained in singing the Marschallin with Kleiber now stood her in good stead, especially in the first act, where her vehemence surprised some of those same critics, while in the second-act love duet she surpassed all expectations with the fervour and beauty of her singing. The conductor on that occasion was Sir John Barbirolli.

During the next five seasons Fisher took on seven new roles. Agathe in *Der Freischütz* and Elisabeth in *Tannhäuser* were splendidly sung, but did not make much dramatic impact, perhaps because of the weakness of the productions. Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*, though, was a rôle that might have been written expressly for the Australian soprano, who consequently was at her very best in it. She gave another excellent and extremely powerful per-

formance as the Kostelnicka in Janáček's *Jenůfa* and, not for the first time, surprised everyone by the sheer splendour of her singing in the title rôle of Puccini's *Turandot*, her only Italian part.

The huge success of this event had equally important consequences. For the first time Britten's Coronation opera was recognised as a masterpiece. Three years later a new production was staged at Sadler's Wells and Sylvia Fisher, who had scored a great personal triumph at the Festival Hall concert, again sang Gloriana.

The rôle became the finest achievement of the second half of her career, with each revival her characterisation grew, both in authority and in emotional intensity, culminating in 1972 when *Gloriana* transferred to the London Coliseum, where Sadler's Wells Opera, shortly to become English National Opera, was now based, and was toured to the Theater am Gärtnerplatz in Munich. Fisher also sang the Kabanicha in *Katya Kabanova* for ENO, a totally terrifying portrait of repressive tyranny.

Her last rôle at Covent Garden in 1973 was Miss Wingrave, another study in repression, which she had created in Britten's television opera *Owen Wingrave* two years previously. This performance exists on video and on disc, otherwise Sylvia Fisher is badly represented in the record catalogues. There is a bracing and bossy Lady Hillows available in complete *Albert Herring* and that is about all. Her Marschallin, her Sieglinde, her Isolde, and her Gloriana are still vivid in the memory of those lucky enough to have seen and heard them.

Erskine Childers

Brian Urquhart's obituary of Erskine Childers [29 August] contains an error in stating that Childers' grandfather and namesake was "executed for treason by the British in 1922", writes Nigel Jones.

Childers Sr may have deserved to have been executed by the British for treason; as a former House of Commons clerk and Boer War serviceman he served the Empire faithfully before becoming an Irish republican.

However, he was, in fact, shot by the army of the Irish Free State, during the Irish Civil War (in which he had taken the losing Republican side) for the crime of possessing a small revolver, given to him in happier times by the Free State leader Michael Collins.

Many crimes can be laid against the British in the long, unhappy history of these islands: the execution of Erskine Childers is not one of them.



Resplendently cool: Morris with the cast of *Mission: Impossible*

Photograph: Stephen Bourne

Greg Morris

This series is currently enjoying a rerun on Channel 4 every Sunday morning.

Greg Morris's regular appearances as a member of the team of CIA-like agents in *Mission: Impossible* made a huge impact, and helped to break new ground. Between 1969 and 1972 he was nominated for three Emmy awards as Best Supporting Actor.

The African-American film and television historian Donald Bogle has described Collier as "one of the first serious black characters to appear regularly on a series, intelligent, reserved, shrewd, and almost resplendently cool and mildly remote. Morris was also something of a heart-throb, although the scripts usually kept him confined to the non-romantic situations of the action."

After *Mission: Impossible* ended in 1973, Morris worked regularly in American television, playing guest roles in such major dramatic programmes as *Streets of San Francisco*, *Quincy, M.E.*, *The Next Generation* and *The Jesse Owens Story*. He also had a supporting role in the ABC series *Vegas* (1979–81) but his career was interrupted by a serious car accident in 1981.

He did not appear on television again until a short-lived re-

prise of *Mission: Impossible*, which also featured his son Phil, in 1989.

Looking at Greg Morris and Nichelle Nichols in re-run of *Mission: Impossible* and *Star Trek* on British television, it seems they are the Invisible Man and Woman of television. Neither series makes an issue of their colour. It seems CBS and NBC wanted to avoid race altogether. So Morris and Nichols became isolated characters without any "real" cultural identity. But, as Donald Bogle has said of Barney Collier in *Mission: Impossible*: "It's hard not to like or respect the character... in terms of television's tiny evolutionary steps, he is indeed important: a black and strong and capable of making decisions."

Stephen Bourne

Greg Morris, actor: born Cleveland, Ohio 27 September 1934; died Las Vegas, Nevada 27 August 1996.

* * * * *

wealth Affairs, was the host at a lunch held yesterday at Admiralty House, London SW1, in honour of Mr Mohamed Larbi, Tunisian Ambassador.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Summer Holidays" (v); Villard, "Lunch at Vauxhall", 1pm.

Tate Gallery: Debra N. Manoff, "Mysterious Passage: John William Waterhouse's *The Lady of Shalott*", 1pm.

National Portrait Gallery (guided tour): "A Variety of Fame: portraiture in the late 20th century", 2.30pm.

Edmund Beaufort Hunt, of Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £2,005,200 net.

Peggy Christian Cole, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, left estate valued at £2,089,934 net.

Margaret Turnbull, of Lyngton, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,115,711 net.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following: Sabbath begins in London at 7.30pm.

United Synagogues: 0171-387 4300.

Federation of Synagogues: 0181-292 2263.

Ulster Synagogue: 0171-690 1600.

Synagogues of Great Britain: 0171-349 4731.

Spanish and Portuguese Jews Community Synagogue: 0171-289 2573.

New Synagogue (Mussar): 0171-328 1026.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guards at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

RODDAM: On 28 August 1996, born in Currie (née Cooper) and Francis's daughter, Siomie Mand.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Jonathan Aitken MP, 54; Dr Barbara Ainsell, rheumatologist, 73; Miss Elizabeth Ashley, actress, 57; Sir Harold Ashcroft, former chairman, Tyzack & Partners, 76; Sir Patrick Branigan QC, former Attorney-General, Gold Coast, 90; Sir Charles Burnham, former chairman, Tarmac, 88; Mr Alan

Humiliation for Hong Kong investment house as Save & Prosper is rapped for UK rule breaches

Imro imposes £815,000 fines on Fleming firms

NIC CICUTTI
London
and STEVE VINES
Hong Kong

Jardine Fleming Asset Management, one of the most respected Hong Kong investment houses, was yesterday fined £400,000 by its regulator and ordered to pay more than £12m compensation for failing to control the rule-breaking activities of one of its fund managers.

Imro, the fund managers' regulator, also fined three fund managers in London, part of Robert Fleming, Jardine Fleming's shareholder, a further £300,000 for their part in the failure.

Jardine Fleming suffered the further humiliation of seeing its chief executive, Robert Thomas, barred from ever acting in a fund management capacity again after he admitted that he bore "ultimate responsibility" for what took place.

In a separate development, Save & Prosper Equity Managers, the personal equity plan subsidiary of Robert Fleming, was fined an additional £115,000 and ordered to pay £100,000 compensation for rule breaches in the UK.

Compensation in Hong Kong was ordered by the Securities & Futures Commission, the colony's regulator.

The fines announced yesterday are among the largest to be levied against any financial institution, rivalled only by Imro's £750,000 punishment of In-



Paul Bateman: 'We are embarrassed by it'

Robert Fleming held a 50 per cent stake, said: "This has been a painful experience for our group. We very much regret the regulatory breaches."

The failings exposed by the five-month Imro and SFC investigation were also accepted by Robert Fleming Asset Management, which said it regretted the breaches.

Paul Bateman, chairman of the company, said: "We are embarrassed by it, there's no doubt about that."

vesco in 1990 for its part in the Robert Maxwell pension scandal and a similar fine against Sedgwick in the same year.

Phillip Thorpe, chief executive at Imro, said: "Other firms would be well advised to review their own arrangements relating to delegated functions."

Henry Rothermere, managing director of Jardine Fleming Holdings, in which Jardine and

His actions had resulted in three accounts managed by JFIM losing money and led to the group agreeing to make voluntary payments totalling £19.3m to compensate these clients.

Armstrong made "substantial profits from trading in Japanese exchange traded options" for his own account, the SFC said.

Mr Bateman said yesterday that the problem was initially spotted by Jardine Fleming Investment Management in late 1994. It noticed a number of questionable trades carried out by Mr Armstrong. He was unable to fully explain what had taken place.

Part of his activities were related to the management of a small Jardine trust, the Ninja fund, which he managed on behalf of some institutions and individuals.

Investigators found that Mr Armstrong's malpractices centered on Japanese stock exchange traded options.

Comment, page 17

How a blue-chip fund manager lost its way

STEVE VINES
and NIC CICUTTI

Jardine Fleming is the largest, and in many ways the most successful, mutual fund company in Hong Kong. Its investment management arm, Jardine Fleming Investment Management, manages funds totalling \$2.3bn (£1.6bn).

The parent company, Jardine Fleming Holdings, was formed in 1970 as a joint venture between the Jardine group, in Hong Kong, and the London-based Robert Fleming.

Jardine Fleming has acquired an international reputation as a market leader in the launch and management of Asia-Pacific funds. It is therefore not surprising that the scandal now engulfing the company, took place in Hong Kong, where Colin Armstrong, former senior fund manager and JFIM director, was involved in trading malpractice between 1993 and 1995.

However, neither Jardine Flem-

ing, nor Robert Fleming in London, which had extensive dealing with JFIM, raised the matter with their regulator, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, until a year after they first got wind that something was seriously amiss.

Imro contacted the Securities & Futures Commission in Hong Kong and a more detailed investigation revealed massive regulatory failures.

Mr Armstrong, operating on behalf of JFIM in Hong Kong, was only allocating deals on behalf of the company's customers after favourable price movements had made it possible for him to make a profit in his own account out of deals where gains were made before the orders were executed on behalf of the clients.

JFIM said yesterday that it was repaying the money independently of any repayment by Mr Armstrong from his own personal assets. Mr Armstrong is now back in London.

Daily Mail may set up 'lifestyle' TV channel

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Daily Mail & General Trust, the media giant controlled by Lord Rothermere, is in negotiations with BSkyB to develop a television channel for broadcast on satellite, it emerged last night.

The move marks the first potential association between DMGT and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster owned 40 per

cent by Rupert Murdoch that dominates the £1.3bn pay-television market in the UK.

Dubbed Daily Mail TV, the service would be aimed at a largely female audience and would focus on lifestyle themes. DMGT, which publishes the *Daily Mail*, the *Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard*, is already a major pay-television broadcaster through its City-TV format Channel One.

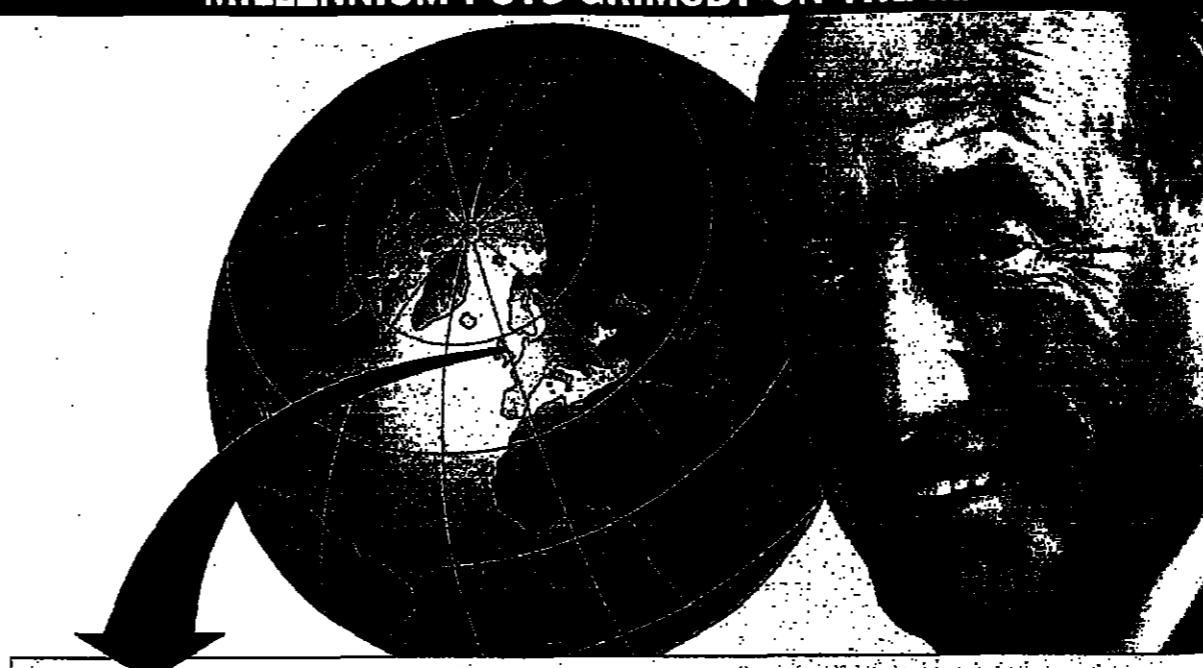
Existing channels in BSkyB's

analogue package would also be transmitted on the digital service. BSkyB has been in negotiations with other channels about providing carriage once the digital service is launched.

DMGT's television strategy

has been developed by Sir David English, chief executive of Associated Newspapers, DMGT's publishing arm. The company intends to continue rolling out its City-TV format

MILLENNIUM PUTS GRIMSBY ON THE MAP



TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT GRIMSBY

- 1 People who hail from Grimsby are known as Grimsbians.
- 2 Grimsby boasts the outspoken Euro-sceptic Labour MP, Austin Mitchell, who this week compared Tony Blair's leadership style to that of ineptive North Korean leader Kim Il Sung.
- 3 Grimsby claims to have Europe's biggest concentration of food production, cold storage and technical expertise. Birds Eye and Blue Crest are among the town's big name companies.
- 4 The smell. Apparently this has more do to with food processing than fish. Visitors often complain about it.
- 5 According to business information service Dun and Bradstreet International, the town the highest proportion of profitable companies in the UK at 89.5 per cent.
- 6 Norman Lamont's mum, Irene, lives in Grimsby. In 1983 she broke the story of her son's ousting as Chancellor of the Exchequer, splitting the beans to Clare Henderson, a trainee reporter on The Grimsby Evening Telegraph.
- 7 Elton John once wrote a song with Bemis Taupiri called 'Grimsby'.
- 8 Grimsby has one of the UK's best museums, which is dedicated to the fishing industry and has been voted one of the best educational tourist sites in the UK.
- 9 Football. Grimsby has a decent First Division team, nicknamed the Mariners. In 1989 they got to the fifth round of the FA Cup.
- 10 Earlier this year Grimsby player-manager Brian Laws was involved in a bust-up with Ivano Bonetti which left the Italian

Grimsby achieves tax haven status for Hanson

PATRICK TOOHER

Hanson, the conglomerate in the throes of breaking itself up, yesterday sought to play down the significance of one of its demerged businesses being managed from Grimsby.

Mr Collins pointed out that not all Millennium's directors would be conveniently based on nearby Stellingborough.

He added that Millennium's board meetings would "almost invariably" be held in the UK.

Although most of its plant and 6,700 staff are located across the pond, Millennium Chemicals will have to be controlled from Britain for the next five years for tax purposes.

The company will be forced to hold its board meetings in the UK and to maintain a British executive office – and the only one it has is near Grimsby.

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Ladbroke deal reunites Hilton hotels

PATRICK TOOHER

The City yesterday gave the thumbs-up to a worldwide alliance between leisure group Ladbroke and the Hilton Hotels Corp of the US that finally reunites the famous Hilton hotel brand after 32 years of separation.

"It's a terrific deal," said Paul Slattery at broker Kleinwort Benson. "It is far more extensive than we thought, covering gaming as well as hotels, and gives Ladbroke more flexibility than we imagined."

The stock market agreed.

sending Ladbroke's shares 3.5p higher to 209.5p and making them one of the best-performing blue chips of the day.

At present Hilton Hotels Corp owns the Hilton name in the United States while Ladbroke holds the rights everywhere else through its Hilton International (HI) subsidiary.

In the new alliance grouping 400 hotels in 49 countries, both companies intend to co-operate from next year on sales and marketing, loyalty programmes and hotel development.

Under the terms of the online deal, Hilton Hotels Corp

will take a 5 per cent stake in Ladbroke on completion early next year. A reciprocal standstill agreement allows the American group to increase its holding in Ladbroke to a maximum of 20 per cent.

In return, Ladbroke can take up a 20 per cent participation in HHIC's hotel and gaming developments in the US.

"We are putting our money where our mouth is," said Stephen Bollenbach, HHIC's president and chief executive officer.

"This alliance gives us the critical mass to lead the global hotel industry."

Abbey sent wrong letters to 40,000

NIC CICUTTI

More than 100,000 Abbey National mortgage borrowers are to be sent letters of apology after a computer blunder led to them being sent statements with wrong repayment details.

The two men said the deal could be worth tens of millions of dollars when cost savings and extra sales were combined, but the benefits were unlikely before 1998.

Mr George will join the HHIC board while Mr Bollenbach will become a director of Ladbroke.

The alliance provides for the formation of a jointly owned company to market and develop the Hilton brand around the

world. HHIC's guest loyalty programme, which has 5 million members, will be extended worldwide. The companies will also participate in each other's future hotel development.

The Hilton brand was separated in 1964 when Hilton International was spun off from the American operation. Ladbroke acquired Hilton International in 1987.

News of the Hilton deal came as Ladbroke announced first-half pre-tax profits of £7.2m before exceptional items, a 29 per cent increase on last year.

Investment Column, page 16

cent by Rupert Murdoch that dominates the £1.3bn pay-television market in the UK.

Dubbed Daily Mail TV, the service would be aimed at a largely female audience and would focus on lifestyle themes.

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business

Ladbroke is worth betting on

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Ladbroke's historic co-operation deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation of the US drew most of the limelight yesterday, but the leisure and hotels group also had a good story to tell about trading so far this year. Half-year figures were far better than the City was expecting, prompting analysts to raise their 1996 forecasts and dealers to push the shares 3.5p higher at 209.5p.

But the 29 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the six months to June was more than just impressive. It could embarrass the group now led by chief executive Peter George. Since the onset of the National Lottery in 1994, Ladbroke and the rest of the gaming industry have complained about its impact on their betting businesses and have lobbied the Government for concessions to level the playing field.

In particular, instant-win scratchcards were held up as the great Satan that threatened the ruin of thousands of betting shops, where Ladbroke is the biggest operator, and the decimation of the pools industry.

The initial effect of the Lottery was dramatic. Betting turnover, especially on horses, fell off a cliff, thousands lost their jobs as the industry cut costs to compete, and Ladbroke's shares crashed to a low of 123p. But given the 17 per cent rise in profits to £43.6m in the betting and gaming division in the last six months, the tumble of scratchcards has clearly worn off.

Several other factors have also worked in Ladbroke's favour. Although retail betting turnover fell £15m to £835m, profits advanced, thanks to the 1 percentage point reduction in betting duty to 9 per cent, lower overhead costs and the introduction of betting on the Irish lottery.

The Euro '96 football championships also helped, bringing in about £5m of extra profits. Hotels gained about £2m from visiting football fans, while a series of draws and England's defeat at the hands of Germany in the semi-final netted Ladbroke another £3m on the betting side.

All this means Ladbroke has slightly less ammunition to shoot with as it continues campaigning for more concessions from Whitehall, including allowing betting on the UK lottery.

Nevertheless, Ladbroke has turned the corner. Net debt continues to fall as the property portfolio is unwound and now stands at less than half of shareholders' funds. The hotels market around the world remains buoyant, especially in the UK. And the potential benefits of unifying the Hilton brand name add plenty of spice.

Only the decision to hold the dividend suggests Ladbroke is treading

warily. Kleinwort Benson's top-of-the-range forecasts look for pre-tax profits of £105m rising to £15m in the next year, implying a p/e ratio of 20 falling to 15. Good value.

Reckitt defies the City sceptics

Reckitt & Colman, the disinfectant to cough cures group, was in chipper mood yesterday, in defiance of City sceptics who wondered at the logic behind the ambitious global strategy being pursued by chief executive Vernon Sankey, the integration of last year's £1bn acquisition of L&F Household, maker of America's leading disinfectant, is proceeding ahead of plan.

The promised £400m disposal target over three years has been beaten in under two, with the recent sale of Brazilian pigments and the German Schulte & Mayr hospital disinfectants operation taking total proceeds to £432m. On top of that, cost savings of £40m in the US this year are on target, even if reaping

the full £25m savings from Reckitt's existing European businesses appears to have been delayed until 1998.

Figures for the half year to 29 June, unveiled yesterday, carried few surprises, but the improved sentiment helped drive the shares 3p higher to 684.5p. Headline pre-tax profits slumped from £316m to £179m, but the figures were distorted by disposals, mainly last year's £107m profit on the sale of Colman's mustard and Robinsons soft drinks brands. Stripping out the funnies, underlying profits rose 10 per cent to £165m.

Reckitt has made progress raising margins, which have risen from 15.8 to 16.5 per cent at the operating level, and there should be more to come. The combined US business is operating with the same number of people as the group had before the acquisition. Synergy benefits are running at £31m, and the forecast £40m should be easily beaten.

But Reckitt still has its work cut out to convince doubters who point to the sluggish top-line growth of sales up from £1.1bn to £1.16bn, representing underlying growth of 5 per cent. The European market for household products remains intensely competitive, with

prescription pharmaceuticals the only bright spot. Meanwhile, underlying sales growth of 7 per cent in North America was not as good as it looked, given the destocking there last year.

Once the restructuring benefits peter out next year, Reckitt will need to prove it can deliver real underlying growth outside Asia. Full-year profits of £315m would put the shares on a forward multiple of 14. Fairly rated.

T&N cloud has a silver lining

T&N was in the dogbox again yesterday, but for once it was not just the cloud of asbestos liabilities which overhangs the pistons to brake linings group that caused the anxiety for investors. The market had been expecting bad news as the old Turner & Newall struggled to cope with sluggish automotive sales in the US and destocking among its customers.

Even so, profits before tax, cut from £73.2m to £58.1m in the six months to June, were below expectations. Analysts were wrongfooted by a £6m-£7m hit for destocking plus a charge for redundancies that roughly doubled to £8.1m in the half year. Full-year forecasts tumbled yesterday as a result, with UBS knocking £20m off to leave its at £110m. The shares dropped 8.5p to 135p.

But to be fair, the latest costs should represent an investment for the future. T&N has been working to reduce its gearing, which was 78 per cent in June 1995. Disposals have pulled in over £200m in the past 18 months and strenuous efforts by management have squeezed £60m out of stocks in the continuing businesses over the 12 months to June. Together, that has helped cut gearing to a level of 47 per cent.

The trouble is that T&N's stock reduction efforts have come at a bad time, with its customers also cutting their inventories. The resulting fall in throughput has hit factory efficiencies and the comparison is made worse by a period last year when T&N was barely keeping up with demand. Although the short-term outlook for the European market is murky, the US is picking up.

There are also grounds for optimism on asbestos. T&N is suggesting the extra cost if it fails the latest legal challenge could be £50m, a chunky sum, but one which pales against the £350m shelled out over the past 10 years.

On a forward p/e of 11, it remains a steal for those willing to brave any more asbestos shocks.

Where the fall-out from the Barings saga is concerned, the Securities and Futures

Flirt outrageously and watch productivity soar

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



John Jackson, chairman of Ladbroke, has issued an open invitation to journalists and readers to design a new Hilton logo. With the imminent reunification of the American side, Hilton Corporation (top logo), with Ladbroke's UK side, Hilton International (bottom), a new global corporate identity is needed. Who knows, with the kind of money people like Shell and BT pay out for new logos, you could strike lucky.

Association (SFA) is taking no chances. Ron Baker, the former Barings director, is appealing against the SFA's finding that he shares some responsibility for the Leeson fiasco which broke the bank.

Now the SFA has retained Presley Baxendale, the barrister who came to prominence in the arms-to-Iraq investigation, to head the case against Mr Baker.

Mr Baker will need a deep pocket indeed to appoint an equally distinguished barrister for the SFA's Tribunal hearing in the autumn.

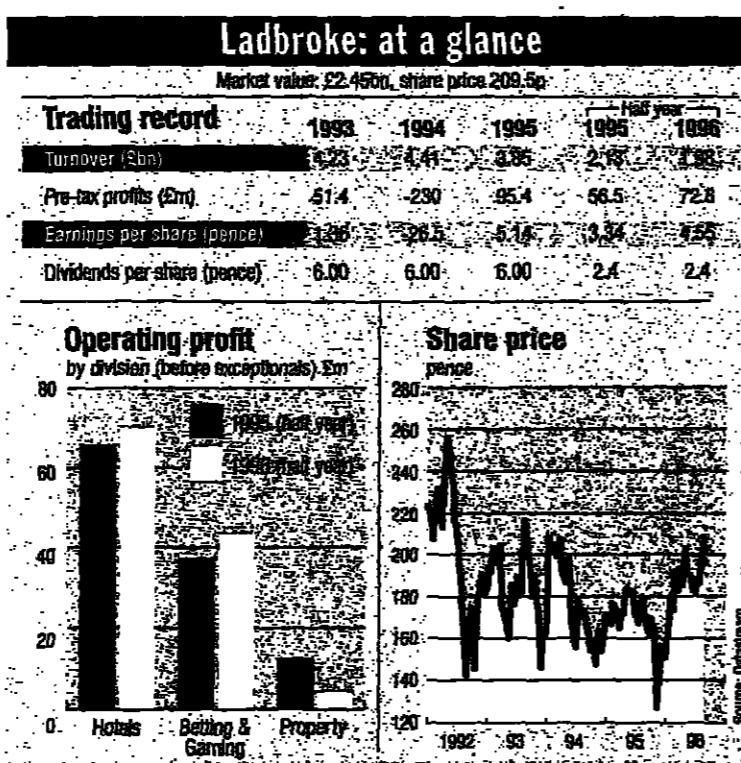
Eddie George has allowed the finals of the latest UK Monopoly championship to be played in the Bank of England's own hallowed halls, with real money supplied by the Bank. Before an outraged Ken Clarke gets on the phone to complain about property speculation at the taxpayers' expense, I should point out that the £1,500 handed to each of the six fi-

nalists was returned at the close of play last night.

Three chaps from Lloyds Bank acted as bankers for the games. The final will be completed today in the House of Commons.

Patrick O'Reilly, the personable stockbroker, has left Panmure Gordon to join rival brokers Charterhouse, and one Panmure client which he floated in 1985 has followed him. The £350m plastic pipe maker Polypipe has switched to Charterhouse because of the company's admiration for O'Reilly. says Polypipe chairman Kevin McDonald.

Gurus beware. Vernon Sankey, Reckitt & Colman's chief executive, is pleased to announce that the company's most recent brand acquisition, a disinfectant called Pif Paf, is the market leader in the Middle East, number two in China, and top in Kenya and West Africa.



Perpetual to vote against Refuge merger

NIC CICUTTI

Perpetual, a leading shareholder in Refuge Assurance, said yesterday it would vote against the proposed £14bn merger of the door-to-door insurer with United Friendly.

The decision by Perpetual to come off the fence after refusing in recent days to say which way it will vote poses a serious threat to the merger plans.

Institutional shareholders

with up to 15 per cent of shares in Refuge, including Perpetual's 7 per cent stake, are now set to vote against the deal at the shareholder meeting on 9 September. Other institutions have yet to decide what line to take.

Some shareholders are understood to have discussed the possibility of closing Refuge to new funds, arguing that they stand to get better value if new business acquisition costs are stripped out of the insurer.

"I am also aware of the argument that the company may

be worth more dead than alive. I must say that it sounds too much like asset-stripping to me. But it is a measure of how some shareholders feel."

Neil Woodford, income fund manager at Perpetual, said: "I have had time to consider further the terms of the merger since our meeting with Refuge and United Friendly last week. Unfortunately, I am not convinced that it offers the best deal to shareholders. There are still a lot of unanswered questions regarding 'orphan assets' belonging to shareholders."

The merger between both or-

ganisations which sell life and pensions products door-to-door, primarily to working-class families, was announced in July.

The wrangle between Perpetual and Refuge centres on the exact proportion of so-called "orphan assets" which is attributable to shareholders before the merger with United Friendly takes place. The fund managers' argument is also based on arguments over the value of Refuge's pension fund

and how much of its surplus shareholders are entitled to.

Laurie Magnus, a director at Phoenix Securities, the corporate financiers that are acting for Refuge, said: "I understand it is being argued the merger has been brought about in haste. Refuge has been in discussions with United Friendly for six months. Refuge has been in talks with the Department of Trade and Industry [over orphan assets] for 18 months."

IN BRIEF

• The Bank of England's chief economist, Mervyn King, said the UK inflation target had not achieved credibility. This meant interest rates ought not respond too much to variations in growth, he argued in a paper presented to a conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Monetary policy had to take account of the fact that it took time for people to learn that the authorities meant what they said about keeping inflation on target. Separately, Howard Davies, the Bank's deputy governor, told a conference in Austria it would not be necessary for countries remaining outside the single European currency to join a new version of the exchange rate mechanism. Sticking to an inflation target would do just as well in preventing unacceptable large devaluations of currencies that stayed out, he said.

• Lawyers for former Australian businessman Alan Bond have lodged an appeal against his conviction and three-year jail sentence for art fraud. Bond was jailed by Judge Antoinette Kennedy after a jury convicted him of four charges relating to the sale of the French impressionist painting, *La Promenade*, by Edouard Manet.

• Disney/ABC International has signed a 10-year exclusive agreement to supply pay-television and pay-per-view programming to the Kirch Group in Germany. The deal will provide a boost to DFL, the pay-television platform owned 51 per cent by Kirch and 49 percent by BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's UK satellite broadcaster, and will dislodge Bertelsmann, Kirch's rival, which has had a close relationship with Disney through their Super RTL television venture.

• Kelvin MacKenzie, chief executive of Live TV, will spend up to four days a month advising Telewest, the cable company, on its marketing strategy. Mirror Group, Live TV's owners, said: "It is in our interests to see that the cable industry is given a push." David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group, said: "If Kelvin can assist them, it assists us." Live TV is a cable-exclusive City TV network, owned 10 per cent by a group of the leading cable operators.

• The London Stock Exchange has censured Clondalkin Group for "very serious" breaches of the Listing Rules of the LSE in the listing of a circular to shareholders on 31 May. The circular gave information upon the proposed acquisition by Clondalkin of the Van der Windt Group, a group of companies based in Holland. Under the Listing Rules of the Stock Exchange, shareholders approval was required for this transaction, in view of its size.

• BAT Industries expects to continue to be embroiled in US tobacco liability litigation for several years, but does not see any significant financial impact on the company, according to chairman Lord Cairns. The litigious framework in the US means that we will see continuing activity in the court rooms of America, he said in a letter to shareholders. "This litigation is not relevant to the great majority of the group's tobacco markets and does not affect at all the interest of our financial services businesses."

• J Sainsbury is "on track" to achieve 2.3 per cent sales growth after the launch of its Reward loyalty card in June, a spokeswoman said. She declined to say when Sainsbury expected to achieve the 10 per cent sales growth to cover the costs.

THE INDEPENDENT

Win a Historic Break

Three atmospheric country house hotels in West Sussex, the Elizabethan Ockenden Manor in Cuckfield, the Spread Eagle Hotel, a 15th Century coaching inn in Midhurst and Bailiffs Court, a mediaeval jolly in Climping are offering independent readers the chance to win a luxurious break including two nights accommodation, breakfast and dinner on one night for 3 couples.

0891 161 945

Calls cost 25p/min cheap rate, 49p/min all other times. Winner picked at random after last entry date 30th August 96. Usual newspaper publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Prize subject to availability.

If you don't win why not book a night special break from £20 per person with dinner, bed and breakfast. Ockenden Manor Tel: 01444 616 111.



Taking the plunge: More than 60 risk managers from Sedgwick UK Risk Services abseiled from the top of their building in London's Aldgate to raise money for the homeless charity Crisis

Photograph: Nicholas Turpin



COMMENT

In theory, nothing is sacred. The logic of the process is that everything should go, leaving the BBC as no more than a cyberspace organisation - a collector and spender of the licence fee'

Auntie could outsource herself out of existence

You can see why John Birt, director-general of the BBC, likes to dream of turning Auntie into what he calls the "virtual corporation". The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defines the word virtual as meaning "in essence or effect although not formally or actually". To be director-general of any company "in essence or effect although not formally or actually" is to define the perfect executive job - power without responsibility, all the fun of decision-making without any of the hard graft or day to day unpleasantness of managing. As director-general of the BBC it would be very heaven. The job would be reduced (or elevated depending on your point of view) to that of programme selection, scheduling, budget control, strategy and general cocktail party loafing.

There is no reason why Mr Birt should stop at resource management. The transmission system will be gone shortly and 35 per cent of programming is already contracted out. Why not go the whole hog and contract out the lot? In theory, nothing is sacred. The logic of the process is that everything should go, leaving the BBC as no more than a cyberspace organisation - a collector and spender of the licence fee. If you can "outsource" the basic resources of the BBC, why not also contract out its news, current affairs and chat shows. Why eventually you might be able to outsource the director general himself.

To be fair on Mr Birt, his dream of the

virtual corporation merely reflects the current management fashion. "Outsourcing", as EDS's extraordinary growth in the US and Britain amply demonstrates, is now big business and there are few industries completely untouched by it. Even the sleepy old life assurance industry is waking up to the potential savings and advantages of shared, arm's length administrative facilities.

The attractions are obvious and alluring. Time consuming, costly support and administrative infrastructure is put in the hands of someone else, who because this is their business, can do it better and for a lower price. The company is thus freed to concentrate on what it does best, whether it be selling insurance, making motor cars or in this case, producing TV and radio programmes.

The other advantage is that it divorces the company from difficult and awkward management decisions and tasks, the downsizing and reform of working practices which is a part of every organisation these days. Indeed the main criticism of "outsourcing" is that it is a form of management abdication, a cop out, just a method of getting someone else to do the dirty work.

Furthermore, the net effect can be to add layers of previously unnecessary bureaucracy and form filling. The arms-length nature of the support structure destroys flexibility and the ability to adapt to changing needs.

It can also lead to a confusion of purpose and goals. In other words, the case for out-

sourcing is by no means proven; in recent years there has indeed been a bit of a backlash against it. The BBC needs to think long and hard before it goes radically down this route for a company that exists "in essence" but not "in actuality" comes dangerously close to one that fails to justify itself at all.

It would be easy to dismiss the Jardine Fleming case as just another securities scandal from Hong Kong, a market that makes London's behaviour look prim and proper by comparison. Rat trading and other scams for making profits at the expense of clients are notoriously rife over there. Think of Standard Chartered and its problems a couple of years ago, the spate of high-profile arrests of senior figures in the Chinese business establishment in recent weeks, or the indictment last month of Chen Po-sun, former vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, for accepting a bribe to approve a transfer of an exchange seat.

But in fact the gun slinging, anything goes, culture of Hong Kong is actually only an uncomfortable reminder of London of in the 1960s, 1970s and even 1980s, when too many professionals failed to see any distinction at all between their own and their clients' money. (Lloyd's carried on the tradition into the 1990s.) Hong Kong's busy regulators at the Securities Commission are now frantically trying to clean up their markets, 10 years after the Financial Services

Act made a start on London.

None of that excuses Flemings, whose failings in this case were breathtaking. It bears repeating that not only has one of its investment management offshoots lost its authorisation to trade but Robert Thomas, the man in charge, and Colin Armstrong, the fund manager at the centre of the scandal, have been barred from investment management.

Flemings appears to have been aware of difficulties in reconciling trades since early last year or late 1994 but did not take the problem to its London regulator, Imro, until October. That should set alarm bells ringing for the bank's shareholders. With the name Barings ringing in their ears they should be setting in train an in-depth probe of all aspects of internal control. They should also be asking why Mr Thomas is still working for the group in a senior role.

er environment would improve well-being. But beyond that the environmental accounts fail to tell us anything.

Take the assertion that national income has been overstated by about £2bn due to the depletion of Britain's North Sea reserves. Fair enough, but there are other potential environmental adjustments to national income that could go the other way. For example, the conventional national accounts exclude industry's spending on pollution control because these are counted as intermediate spending and deducted off total company profits.

Some experts think this spending - also about £2bn - should be added to national income because it helps deliver the benefit of clean air. Others think it should be deducted because it would not have to be spent if we still had clean air in the first place. It can readily be seen that we are here entering the logic of cloud cuckoo land. In principle, as well as in practice, there is no easy answer to the question of how the environment affects national income.

Indeed the green accounts actually emphasise the daffiness of seeking to replace GDP with an alternative, single measure of the state of the economy. Conventional GDP has its flaws but does measure something that can be precisely defined and does not depend on political or moral judgements. The quest for a replacement measure of "real" prosperity is a futile one.

Rolls-Royce wins £290m Russian engine order

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Rolls-Royce has signed its first order to fit jet engines into Russian-built aircraft in a deal which could be worth \$450m (£290m), sending the aerospace group's order book to record levels.

The order, which the company said was the culmination of years of development work, is to supply an initial 26 RB211 engines to power 13 Tupolev Tu-204 passenger jets, similar in size to the Boeing 737, for \$195m. In addition, there is an option to supply a further 11 planes, although Rolls-Royce said the total could run to 200 aircraft.

The engines are being purchased by the Kato Group, a private Egyptian industrial concern, which will lease the completed aircraft to airlines in the former Soviet Union. Two of the RB211 engines were delivered to the Russian manufacturing operation, Aviastar, last month.

It means Rolls-Royce has secured potential orders worth

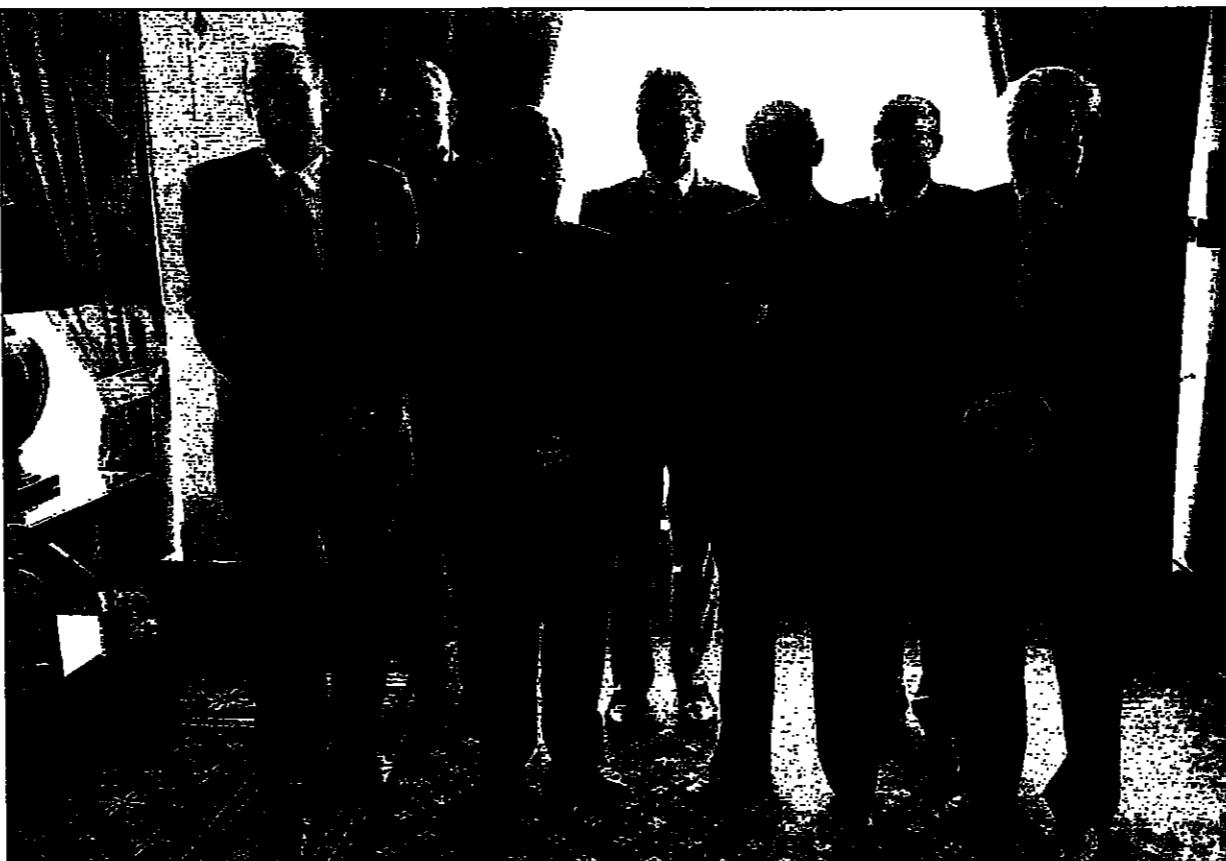
£750m since June, on top of £7.8bn worth of contracts or agreements in the pipeline.

The news came as the company revealed losses of £160m in the first half of the year after making bigger-than-expected provisions of £263m to cover the cost of closing or selling its large steam turbine businesses, which include the historic Parsons plant on Tyneside. Excluding these costs, operating profits surged by 50 per cent, rising from £64m to £96m.

However, an overtime ban by unions at Derby and Bristol, which lasted almost a year, knocked £15m off earnings, while Rolls lost another £5m from the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch aircraft builder which went bankrupt in the spring.

John Rose, the chief executive, insisted he remained hopeful that Parsons would find a buyer. "I'm optimistic that there will be a sale. There's been more than enough interest to confirm that view," he explained.

The brighter mood was also



Optimistic: Barney McGill (third left) with union colleagues after meeting with Rolls-Royce yesterday. 'For the first time Rolls were saying that there is genuine interest in Parsons'

Photograph: Jane Baker

detected by Parsons unions, who met with Rolls-Royce board members in London yesterday. Barney McGill from the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said: "For the first time Rolls were saying that there is genuine interest in Parsons and the other turbine plant in Derby. They seemed positive that prospective buyers are in the wings."

Yet Parsons continued to act as a drain on cash, helping to add a further £15m to the £248m write-offs disclosed at the time of the sell-off announcement last month. The increase in the scale of the provisions to £263m surprised some analysts.

Mr Rose said the aerospace market was "clearly recovering" after years of recession, as airlines gradually replace outdated

fleets. But the City was less impressed by the aerospace division, jumping by two-thirds to £77m. However, Allison contributed £31m of this in the first half of 1996, compared with just £12m in the first six months of 1995. Stripping away Allison's contribution, the costs of the overtime ban and the losses incurred in the Fokker collapse, aerospace earnings fell by £6m, to £94m. Rolls-Royce shares fell 5.5p to 225.5p.

Surge in US growth and home sales take shine off Wall Street

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The American economy revealed its unexpected strength for the second time this week, crowning Bill Clinton's nomination for the presidential race at the Democratic Party convention in Chicago.

A big upgrade to the estimated pace of growth in the second quarter of the year and a surge in new home sales in July sent shares on Wall Street and Treasury bond prices tumbling. In London the FTSE 100 share index ended nearly 34 points lower at 3,885, back below the 3,900 level it breached last week as a result.

The surprisingly buoyant economic figures will make the Federal Reserve more inclined to increase interest rates after its

next policy meeting on 24 September, analysts concluded.

Brian Fabri, an economist at Paribas Securities in New York, said: "If the August employment figures are also strong they will move then, even though it is before the election. If the economy is in such great shape it leads to the conclusion that Clinton cannot lose."

Many experts have been predicting a slowdown in the second half of the year, but recent indicators have been surprisingly robust. Earlier this week consumer confidence returned to a six-year high. Sales of new single-family homes jumped 7.9 per cent in July. The previously reported June decline was revised from a whopping 5.3 per cent originally to a more modest 1.8 per cent.

The average price of a new house rose 2.7 per cent during July. Overall, annual US house price inflation has been running at about 10 per cent.

According to yesterday's revised GDP figures, the US economy grew at an annual rate of 4.8 per cent in the April-June quarter. This was the fastest rate for two years. It compares with the original estimate of 4.2 per cent and a mere 2 per cent in the first quarter.

The unexpected revision was due to several factors, particularly higher investment and stronger government spending.

Some economists argue that these increases will not be sustained, causing growth to slow in the second half of this year.

The question is whether it will slow down quickly enough to avert an increase in interest rates. It will be a close-run

Lloyd's plan set to win go-ahead

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, is expected to announce this morning that the £3.2bn rescue plan has gone unconditional, following acceptance by more than 90 per cent of the membership and approval yesterday by the market's ruling council.

However, the uncertainty about the Fed's next move has put the spotlight once again on the monthly employment figures, due today.

Job creation in July was

weaker than expected, but the August figure is likely to be high, partly due to hiring related to the Olympic Games.

The Dow Jones index was

nearly 36 points lower, at

5,676.87 by late morning. The benchmark long Treasury bond fell by about half a point, taking the yield up to 7.01 per cent.

control spending because they involve market transactions.

However, the breakdown of pollution by industry and sector uses physical measures.

Electricity generation is the biggest single producer of greenhouse gases and acid rain precursors such as sulphur dioxide.

But allocating electricity demand to its end-users puts households at the top of the league for both of these categories as well as "blacksmoke", the particulates in exhaust emissions.

Households accounted for 210 metric tonnes of greenhouse gases and 1,434 metric tonnes of acid rain gases in 1993, about a third and a quarter of the total respectively. They also produced a big chunk of other emissions affecting air quality such as blacksmoke and lead.

To Shareholders of Lonrho Plc

PRINCESS/METROPOLE FLOAT BY LONRHO Plc

It's time for yet another EGM at Lonrho.

If you've got nothing better to do, why not read my circular?

If you have got something better to do, then leave it all to the management who brought you the Lonrho Platinum/Impala merger. Remember that?

R. W. ROWLAND

Copies of the circular being sent to Lonrho shareholders by R.W. Rowland may be obtained by contacting him at Hedsor Wharf, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5JN Tel: 01628 525331 Fax: 01628 526148

Houses emit more pollution than factories

Private households are one of the biggest sources of pollution such as greenhouse gases and gases causing acid rain, according to the first environmental accounts for Britain published by the Office for National Statistics, writes Diane Coyle.

Domestic heating and the private car put households at the top of the league for emissions of greenhouse gases and particulates.

The figures allude to pollution to different sectors of the economy overturn the assumption that manufacturing industry is the main culprit.

Agriculture emerges as another big polluter because of ammonia emissions.

The environmental accounts also put the value of the depletion of North Sea oil and gas

at £2.3bn in 1993, suggesting that national income has been overstated by that amount. North Sea reserves will last for another 40 years at 1993 rates of extraction.

The new figures also include a measure of "defensive" expenditure by industry to combat pollution, estimated at £2.3bn in 1993. Chemicals, paper and publishing and food manufacturing accounted for almost half of total spending by industry on pollution control.

But the ONS has not yet decided whether this means national income is understated, because this is spending that brings the benefit of cleaner air, or whether it is overstated, because the expenditure is a burden imposed by the creation of economic well-being.

The project follows standards for national accounts set by the United Nations three years ago to develop better measures of economic well-being.

The environmental satellite can put values on the depletion of resources and on pollution

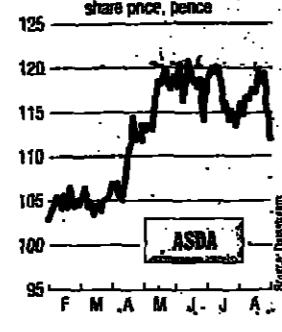
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market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100	3885.0	-33.7
FT-SE 250	4432.1	-5.7
FT-SE 350	1946.7	-13.8
SEAC VOLUME	734.4m shares,	37,624 bargains
Gilt Index	92.83	+0.04

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Zeneca moves against the tide on talk of a Swiss bid

Bank on shares moving against the tide – it's an old stock market saying which, unlike many, contains the ring of truth.

Zeneca and Lloyd's Abbey Life offered contrary supporters an opportunity to display their courage as most shares slipped and slithered with many investors opting to snatch profits after this month's strong run.

In occasionally brisk trading the drugs giant, for so long one of the market's main takeover plays, climbed to a closing peak of 20.5p (after 27.5p) to 1.538p.

This week's profit presentation by Roche, the Swiss group, prompted the gain. The company is cash-rich and anxious to expand; it wants to recapture its position as Switzerland's top drugs group.

The Swiss have, over the years, established a reputation for anticipating takeover activity. Rowntree Mackin-

tosh, the sweets group, and Consolidated Goldfields are two prime examples of Swiss buying signalling corporate action. Last year's offer for Rothmans International, the cigarette group, was said to have been preceded by Swiss interest.

The Swiss, according to many observers, were mainly responsible for yesterday's Zeneca action. They – and we – expect a bid; it's a question of timing," said one dealer.

Zeneca is valued at around £1.43bn. It no doubt feels it is too big to fall to a hostile strike. And in recent months it has underlined its reluctance to go along with bid stories.

It could be argued that despite its glamour rating its shares are merely reflecting growth prospects and the stream of new drugs likely to appear in the next few years.

Lloyd's Abbey Life, the insurance group, ignored the

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

scorn poured on the rumour of a Prudential Corporation strike which lifted its shares 32p on Wednesday. They improved a further 12.5p to 605p on suggestions Lloyds TSB, with 62.5 per cent of the capital, is about to emerge as the bidder.

Such an offer, said to be 67.5p a share, would make much more sense than the rumoured Pru attack. After selling its Mercantile & General reinsurance arm the Pru has cash to spare but Lloyds TSB, with the bolt-on advantages LAL offers, is an unlikely seller. The rest of the market, run, was in ragged retreat, largely unsettled by a New

York plunge on higher interest rate fears.

The FT-SE 100 index fell 33.7 points to 3,885 and even the seemingly remorseless progress of the supporting FT-SE 250 index was halted. After a 20-day winning streak it suffered a 5.7 points setback to 1.438p.

Asda, the supermarket chain, fell 2.75p to 110.5p, lowest since May, as the market fretted about Archie Norman's decision to reduce his involvement. He has been the inspiration behind the group's revival. When he arrived four years ago the shares were burning along at around 23p.

Allders, the department

store group, added 6p to 214.5p awaiting a share buy-back or special dividend and Yorkshire Electricity enjoyed a late run, gaining 15.5p to 777p on rumours a buy-back was planned.

General Electric Co remained unsettled by the George Simpson debate and Salomon Brothers caution: the shares fell 4.5p to 380.5p.

Courtaulds, the chemical group, was ruffled by losses suffered by its Austrian rival, Lenzing, falling 8.5p to 436.6p.

Ladbrokes' better-than-expected figures and marketing deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation lifted the price 3.5p to 209.5p but Rolls-Royce, down 5.5p to 225.5p, and T&N, 8.5p easier at 135p, lost ground after results.

EMI, the showbiz group, span 38.5p lower to 1,447.5p on slowdown. Tring International,

the compact disco group, undermined industry worries with a profits warning that left the shares down 5p at 18.5p. A year ago they were 118p.

British Aerospace broke through the 1,000p barrier with a 13.5p gain to 1,008.5p and expectations of a cheerful trading statement soon lifted Airtours 12.5p to 598.5p.

An attempt by Lord Cairns, chairman of BAT Industries, to rally the shareholder troops after the US tobacco litigation setback had no immediate impact with the shares falling 8.5p to 436.6p.

Ladbrokes' better-than-expected figures and marketing deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation lifted the price 3.5p to 209.5p but Rolls-Royce, down 5.5p to 225.5p, and T&N, 8.5p easier at 135p, lost ground after results.

Greene King, the East Anglian brewer which recently splashed out £297.5m for The Magic Pub Co, frothed up to 625p as a buyer shopped for a million shares.

With its enlarged pubs estate Greene King is seen, in some quarters, as better value than some of the pure pub companies.

TAKING STOCK

Ex-Lands, the property group, has been a disappointing investment. The shares were more than 50p at the start of the 1990s.

Even the demerger of its golf interests have failed to spark interest and the price has drifted steadily lower, reaching 7.5p.

Yesterday the shares perked up on suggestions the group could be involved in bid talks. In busy trading they put on 1p to 8.5p with Raglan Properties one of those named as a possible suitor.

Waverley Mining fell to a 12-month low of 69.5p. The shares were 116p at the start of the year.

There is persistent small selling with cheerful overseas developments overshadowed by nagging worries about its Scottish coal interests.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/dividend ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: Ex Rights x Ex-Dividend: Date of last United Securities Market's Sustained Source: FT Information

pp Party Paid pn N/Pd Shares: A All Share

Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	shares	Stock	shares	Stock	shares	Stock	shares
AAV	2000000	Tesco	590000	Beech	720000	Midland	570000
ABP	2000000	Lloyd TSB	590000	British Steel	640000	Cadbury Sch	520000
ABP	2000000	Lure	700000	Globe Telecom	610000	Allied Domex	500000
ABP	1500000	Pallack	700000	British Telecom	590000	BP	500000
ABP	1500000	BT	700000	Scottish Power	590000	Vodafone	500000

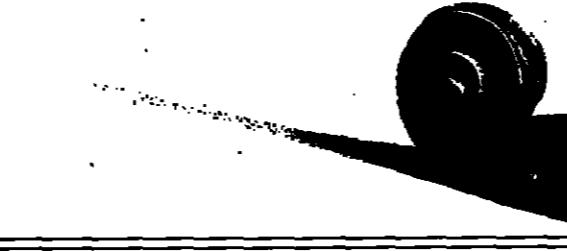
FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 3895.5 down 28	11.00 3897.5 down 11	14.00 3895.5 down 15
08.00 3915.5 down 35	12.00 3911.5 down 74	15.00 3897.5 down 215
10.00 3915.5 up 0.9	13.00 3913.5 down 55	16.00 3894.5 down 145

Close 3895.5 down 33

PEACE

CLASSIC FM 100-102



Government Securities

Year	Low	High	Price	Chg	Yield	Price Chg
1996	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	4.00%	0.00
1997	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.99%	0.00
1998	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.98%	0.00
1999	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.97%	0.00
2000	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.96%	0.00
2001	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.95%	0.00
2002	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.94%	0.00
2003	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.93%	0.00
2004	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.92%	0.00
2005	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.91%	0.00
2006	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.90%	0.00
2007	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.89%	0.00
2008	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.88%	0.00
2009	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.87%	0.00
2010	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.86%	0.00
2011	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.85%	0.00
2012	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.84%	0.00
2013	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.83%	0.00
2014	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.82%	0.00
2015	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.81%	0.00
2016	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.80%	0.00
2017	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.79%	0.00
2018	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.78%	0.00
2019	1					

business

Hambro estate agent in the black

NIC CICUTTI
and PETER RODGERS

A day after the Hambros group came under threat from a Hong Kong investment fund, Hambro Countrywide, the estate agent and financial services offshoot, swung back into the black after heavy losses.

The sharply improved performance was announced as shareholders were digesting the impact of the disclosure by Regent Pacific, which has specialised in breaking up under-performing investment trusts, that it had bought a 3 per cent stake in Hambros.

Hambro Countrywide, which is majority controlled by Hambros, reported a first-half return to profit of £10.5m, compared with losses of £5.8m last year.

Regent hopes for a meeting with Hambros as early as next week following a letter from Sir Chips Keswick, the chief executive, saying he would be willing to see his new shareholders.

Hambros has potentially powerful allies on its shareholder register. San Paolo, the Italian bank, has a 14 per cent holding and Guardian Royal Exchange almost 10 per cent.

GRG has the same chairman as Hambros, Lord Hambro, and Sir Edward Adeane, former private secretary to the Prince of Wales, is on both boards.

The only other large shareholder is Norwich Union with 4.87 per cent.

Daimler-Benz returns to profit

IMRE KARACS

Bonn

Germany's limping giant Daimler-Benz has emerged from its huge restructuring with a healthy profit, propelled by soaring sales of its car division, Mercedes-Benz. Figures released yesterday showed that Daimler recovered from last year's slump with an operating profit of DM827m (£360m) in the first half of 1996.

"After the heavy cuts the

first results are beginning to show," said the company's chairman, Jürgen Schrempp. "The concern, whose portfolio has been cut from 35 divisions

to 25, is now essentially profitable."

Last year the company recorded a loss of DM5.7bn, the biggest in German history. Mr Schrempp, whom shareholders hold responsible for over-extending Daimler's range of activities, set about ditching loss-making divisions early this year. Out went its investment in Fokker, the Dutch aircraft manufacturer, at a cost of DM2.5bn, while another recent acquisition, AEG, was pruned into oblivion.

Despite the good results so far this year, Mr Schrempp conceded that some of the figures remain unsatisfactory.

Overall profit margins are still slim, and turnover, up 9 per cent to DM49.1bn, may not match last year's annual figure of DM103.5bn.

Daimler's aeronautics division, Dasa, remains a drain even without Fokker. In the first half of this year Dasa lost DM700m, a considerable improvement on the DM1.6bn it cost the parent company in the previous six months but still large enough to make a huge dent in Daimler's earnings. Aircraft orders are up by 35 per cent this year, but Mr Schrempp does not expect Dasa to return to the black until 1998. The restructuring programme Dolores,

designed to make Dasa competitive on the world market, will continue at the expense of thousands of jobs.

This year's star performer, once again, is Mercedes-Benz, with a profit of DM1.4bn – up 3 per cent – on increased turnover. Earlier this week, Mercedes reported a 7.9 per cent increase in world-wide sales in the first half of this year, boosted by the outstanding performance of its heavy truck division in Europe and Latin America.

Apart from cars and trucks, Daimler made some money out of Adtranz, its joint venture with ABB, while its service branch, debis, increased its

profit to DM212m. But the wreckage of AEG still lost DM132m, even after the sacking of most of its workers, and the micro-electronics subsidiary Temic remains in the red.

Ultimately Daimler's success or failure will be determined by its ability to rein in the subsidiaries that are bleeding Mercedes dry. Last year the group failed to pay a dividend for the first time in 45 years, and yesterday Mr Schrempp did not seem certain that it would be able to reward share-holders at the end of this one. Despite the favourable balance sheet, Daimler shares remained virtually unchanged.

Slough chairman predicts healthy property revival

Further evidence of the revival in the property market was provided yesterday by Slough Estates, which announced a 14 per cent rise in half-year profit and said its development programme was at a high level in its home market and overseas.

Slough's shares climbed 10p to a high for the year of 247.5p on the profits rise from £32.8m to £37.4m, accompanied by an increase in the interim dividend from 3.1p to 3.25p.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Slough, said: "The first point to make is we have seen a better underlying trend in our core portfolio."

Business confidence has improved in the UK, leading to increases in leases and better rental levels. However, he said the recovery was very different from the unsustainable boom conditions of the 1980s.

"What we're seeing this time is that the improvement is being driven by genuine occupancy interest whereas in the 1980s it was being driven by investment interest. This is a much healthier system," he said.

Sir Nigel said businesses were keen to improve their accommodation and this was driving up the interest and resulting in increased rental levels: "The



Sir Nigel Mobbs: says rental levels are strengthening

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	D-Mark			
Spot	1 month	2 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot
US	1.5574	5.4	8.50	1.5575	5.4	8.50
Canada	2.2222	1.13	5.6555	2.1	5.65	5.6555
Germany	2.3052	52.46	14902	26.25	26.83	14900
France	7.8979	151.34	367.367	78.73	220.21	367.367
Italy	2.3574	45.63	142.88	14.31	13.85	142.85
Japan	16.825	75.70	225.21	16.840	45.44	136.33
ECU	12.244	15.11	127.8	7.8	22.25	127.83
Belgium	47.484	11.8	31.25	30.490	65.45	178.17
Denmark	8.9129	159.16	225.25	85.65	270.22	215.65
Netherlands	2.5847	55.77	167.92	35.55	107.02	121.70
Ireland	0.9671	7.3	10.14	4.7	12.17	4.72
Norway	10.005	120.50	310.20	6.496	110.60	43.40
Spain	1.9511	21.31	69.12	12.23	23.47	60.72
Sweden	1.5841	54.43	152.32	37.54	40.71	142.00
Australia	1.9678	20.31	67.95	14.24	21.66	58.65
Fiji	3.8844	0.0	0.0	2.4942	4.44	80.80
New Zealand	2.2401	43.57	133.65	14.428	30.32	88.90
Saudi Arabia	5.8408	0.0	0.0	3.7055	2.7	9.14
Singapore	2.9202	0.0	0.0	1.4078	41.30	103.88

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THE INDEPENDENT

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HOW TO ENTER
Using your football knowledge decide your team formation from the following four options:

FORMATION A: 4-4-2
4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION B: 4-3-3
4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers

FORMATION C: 5-3-2
5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION D: 3-5-2
3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.



Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of 10 players to fit your chosen option, plus one goalkeeper and one manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and the team's total value must not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name.

Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a tone telephone, although a standard pulse telephone can be used if necessary.

Make sure you follow the instructions on the phoneline carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers and defenders whose teams have kept a clean sheet during a match. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the

winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the standard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for scoring purposes.

The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

If your player or manager has been injured or transferred out of the Premiership, there will be the chance to update your team in our transfer period, which will be announced soon. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the

FANTASY FOOTBALL

Team Selection Form

Name	Code	Value
Goalkeeper		
Defender 1		
Defender 2		
Defender 3		
Defender 4		
Defender 5		
Midfielder 1		
Midfielder 2		
Midfielder 3		
Midfielder 4		
Midfielder 5		
Striker 1		
Striker 2		
Striker 3		
Manager		

PIN No. Total £

Team Name:

POINT SCORES:

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

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INDEPENDENT TEAM MARKET

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE	(£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE	(£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE	(£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE	(£m)
GOALKEEPERS																			
300	Seaman	ARS	5.9		458	Unsworth	EVE	3.0		554	Thorn	WIM	1.8		688	Bart-Williams	NOT	3.6	
303	Bosnich	AV	4.0		459	Hettinger	EVE	2.2		555	Thatcher	WIM	2.7		689	Stone	NOT	5.0	
304	Flowers	BLA	5.2		460	Hinchcliffe	EVE	1.9							690	Gemmell	NOT	3.0	
305	Kharin	CHE	3.7		461	Jobson	LEE	2.7							693	Parker	LEI	2.5	
306	Hitchcock	CHE	1.5		462	Kelly	LEE	3.6							694	Taylor	LEI	1.6	
307	Ogrizovic	COV	2.2		463	Wetherall	LEE	3.5							695	Izzett	LEI	2.1	
308	Filan	COV	1.5		464	Dorigo	LEE	3.2		600	Merson	ARS	4.4		696	Waddle	SW	2.7	
309	Southall	EVE	3.0		465	Pemberton	LEE	1.2		603	Platt	ARS	4.8		697	Blinker	SW	2.2	
310	Martyn	LEE	3.3		466	Walsh	LEI	2.2		604	Parlour	ARS	3.7		698	Jones	SW	2.0	
311	James	LIV	4.7		467	Whitlow	LEI	1.2		605	Helder	ARS	1.5		699	Hyde	SW	1.8	
312	Pool	LEI	1.5		468	Watts	LEI	1.6		606	Hillier	ARS	1.9		700	Magilton	SOT	2.4	
313	Hout	DER	1.6		469	Babb	LIV	3.7		607	Taylor	AV	3.1		703	Venison	SOT	2.7	
314	Schmeichel	MU	5.5		470	Jones (R)	LIV	2.7		608	Draper	AV	4.1		704	Heaney	SOT	2.2	
315	Walsh	MID	3.0		471	Ruddock	LIV	2.8		609	Doris	BLA	3.0		705	Gray	SUN	3.0	
316	Smicer	NEW	3.7		472	Scales	LIV	3.0		610	Denis	BLA	3.7		706	Kae	SUN	2.7	
317	Hislop	NEW	3.7		473	Harkness	LIV	4.4		611	Wilcox	BLA	3.7		707	Agnew	SUN	1.0	
318	Crossley	NOT	2.7		474	Neville (G)	MU	3.7		612	Ripley	BLA	3.0		708	Anderton	TOT	6.7	
319	Wright	NOT	1.3		475	Neville (P)	MU	3.7		613	Shawcross	BLA	3.4		709	For	TOT	5.6	
320	Bassett	SOT	1.8		476	Irwin	MU	4.1		614	Filtzoff	BLA	3.0		710	Howells	TOT	3.2	
321	Pressman	SW	2.7		477	Pallister	MU	4.9		615	Gull	CHE	4.4		711	Sinton	TOT	3.0	
322	Coton	SUN	1.8		478	May	MU	3.0		616	Di Matteo	CHE	3.7		712	Williamson	WH	3.6	
323	Walker	TOT	3.4		479	Dodd	SOT	2.2		617	Newton	CHE	2.4		713	Dumfries	WH	3.7	
324	Miklosko	WH	3.0		480	Charlton	SOT	2.2		618	Peacock	CHE	2.1		714	Hughes	WH	2.7	
325	Sullivan	WIM	1.8		481	Albert	NEW	4.1		619	McAllister	CHE	2.4		715	Moncur	WH	2.7	
326	Tiler	AV	3.4		482	Howey	NEW	3.7		620	Telfer	CHE	2.4		716	Monk	WH	2.0	
327	Berg	BLA	3.4		483	Peacock	NEW	3.0		621	Salako	CHE	2.4		717	Jess	WH	2.0	
328	Le Saux	BLA	4.0		484	Barton	NEW	3.3		622	Richardson	CHE	2.4		718	Earle	WH	3.1	
329	Coleman	BLA	3.7		485	Brenford	NOT	2.4		623	Palmer	CHE	3.0		719	Ardley	WIM	2.0	
330	Hendry	BLA	4.4		486	Jerkin</td													

'Superman' Boardman on top of the world

Cycling

GUY HODGSON
reports from Manchester

Chris Boardman went into unknown territory with a charge last night when he broke the world record for the second time in two days for the 4000 metres pursuit at the World Track Championships here. In less than 36 hours he had demolished the old mark by eight seconds.

The 28-year-old from Hoylake clocked 4min 11.11sec to win

the world title and take the pursuit into realms undreamed of until he adopted the "Superman" position that has made him aerodynamically sleeker. When the world's top cyclists arrived at the Manchester Velodrome on Wednesday the record stood at 43:19.699; two days later Boardman had gone inside that four times speaking volumes for his powers of recovery.

If an athlete broke a running record he would require several days rest to go anywhere near the time again. Boardman sim-

ply piled fast times on top of each other recording the four best in history.

His opponent in the final last night was Andrea Collinelli and that was incentive enough for Boardman who had watched the Italian take his Olympic pursuit title at Atlanta. The Briton was too tired after his efforts in the Tour de France to race in the pursuit, though he won a bronze medal in the time trial.

A month's rest and proper preparation provided a chance to set the record straight about

the pursuit and Boardman grabbed it. The final was billed as a battle of the last two Olympic champions: in the end it proved to be a rout.

In all his races at the National Cycling Centre Boardman has begun slowly, the high gear on his specially adapted £15,000 bike making him take the first 500 metres to crank up the wheels into full flow.

After a lap he was half a second behind, at one point he was 1.6sec adrift but although Collinelli had adopted the

stretched out "Superman" position, too, it was the Briton who was flying. By the half-way stage Boardman was ahead and he was bearing down on the back wheel of an opponent who had started on the other side of the track.

The pace was ferocious. Collinelli well inside the world record by the 1,000 metre mark. Boardman, however, saved his best for the latter stages and at 3,000 metres he was more than a second inside the mark he had set the day before. Collinelli

slowed down, as he realised he was chasing the uncatchable, and could only watch as his opponent lopped another two seconds off the record.

The semi-final, earlier in the evening had been a forewarning. Boardman's opponent, the 17-year-old Russian Alexei Markov was not a problem. It was how much energy he would expended trying to get to the final. In the end the Briton was coasting long before the end.

By the last lap Boardman was sitting in Markov's slip-

stream, his hands and arms recoiled from the laid-out position he assumed as his fastest. He looked like a man out on a Sunday ride until you saw his time, 4:15.006, then the third fastest in history.

It would prove to be just a stepping stone in the finest sequence of times ever. And this could be just a prelude. Next Friday, at the same venue, Boardman goes for the world hour record. Few would bet against him getting it.

Tennis

Michael Chang produced a superb performance to enliven a drab day at the US Open with a 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 demolition of the South African qualifier Neville Godwin that put the second-seeded American into the third round.

Overcast skies, humid air and a lack of leading personalities gave the day a sluggish feel, but Chang and the women's fourth seed, Conchita Martinez, added some excitement to the night programme.

Chang approached perfection against the 118th-ranked Godwin, who had come to prominence when he reached the fourth round at Wimbledon.

"Everything comes back so hard from Michael," Godwin said. "You think you've put one away and it comes back. You think you've put away another one and it comes back. It's not nice. It's not fun."

Chang's idea of fun was a quick end. "I've had matches when I'm cruising along and the tide changes," he said. "I just try to beat guys as bad as I can."

The fourth-seeded Martinez, thrashed France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-1, 6-3 to take her place in the third round. "I've been trying my whole career to be aggressive," Martinez said. "What I'm trying to do is be aggressive all the time, maybe give up to the net a few times like I did tonight."

Earlier, the 12th-seeded Todd Martin shared the men's spotlight with another South African qualifier, David Nainkin, ranked No 21 in the world.

Martin, eager to make up for his collapse in the Wimbledon semi-finals against MaliVai Washington, served 14 aces as he served and volleyed his way past Morocco's Younes El Ayachou 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Nainkin stunned his ninth-seeded compatriot Wayne Ferreira, winner in Toronto last week, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

In the women's draw Lindsay Davenport, the Olympic champion, reached the the third round with a 6-0, 6-4 win over Slovakian Henrieta Nagyova, and the 15th seed, Gabriela Sabatini, the 1990 champion, also advanced in straight sets over Ann Grossman.

Monica Seles, the second seed, took her place in the third round, but did so without playing a point when her opponent Laurence Courtois pulled out with a knee injury.

Steffi Graf, the holder, said yesterday she had considered pulling out of the tournament because it overlaps with the opening of her father's tax evasion trial in Germany. Asked how she felt about competing as her father enters the dock on 5 September, she said: "An unfortunate date. But now I am calmer than I was."

After a surprisingly tough first round encounter with Indonesian Yayan Basuki, Graf yesterday bulldozed the Austrian player, Karen Kschwendt, 6-2, 6-1 in just 52 minutes.

She now faces Natasha Zvereva of Belarus after the world No 27 ousted Ai Sugiyama, of Japan, ranked one place above her, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Barbara Paulus of Austria, the only other seed left in Graf's quarter, also advanced, 7-5, 6-2 over Elena Wagner of Germany. And the 15-year-old Russian prodigy Anna Kournakova moved easily into the third round, 6-3, 6-3 over Italian Natalia Baudone.

Cricket

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Leading clubs to break from RFU

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN

The First and Second Division clubs have thrown the English game into turmoil by deciding to break away from the Rugby Football Union.

With the Five Nations' Championship already under threat, the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, under whose aegis the top 24 clubs operate, will be giving Twickenham a season's notice of their intent and hope to fulfil their fixture commitments this year, but from September 1997 they will no longer be answerable to the game's governing body in this country.

Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, said: "The whole or-

ganisation at Twickenham is paralysed by the in-fighting between rival parties. We have to embrace professionalism and make our plans."

He added: "The decision has been taken in the light of widespread dismay among club men." The move was made reluctantly, for senior club representatives had hoped to embrace the new world of professionalism hand in hand with the RFU hierarchy.

The Epruc clubs' move will leave the RFU in tatters and the game split, possibly irrevocably, in the British Isles if not the northern hemisphere.

There is certain to be a call for a Special General Meeting.

As clubs in the north are rumoured to have provided the requisite number of signatures

for a petition which is likely to put a motion of no confidence before the delegates and call for the resignation at least of the team which negotiated the sale of exclusive broadcasting rights to BSkyB for £87.5m over five years, a deal which appears to have cost England their place in the Five Nations.

The move by English clubs could well be copied by those in other home unions. The Welsh clubs are said to be very unhappy with the Welsh Rugby Union. Epruc is scheduled to meet representatives of the Welsh clubs today, confident of winning their support. The Scottish clubs, too, are said to be disaffected.

The decision by the clubs, all members of Epruc, was taken during a series of meetings this

What this means for rugby union

- Five Nations Championship not viable in its present form
- 1999 World Cup in doubt, therefore more loss of vital revenue
- BSkyB deal now in balance
- A number of clubs who were relying on a share of the BSkyB cash and could now go to the wall

week. On Tuesday, English First Division Rugby and Epruc representatives at Northampton and their mood was militant. On Wednesday, it was the turn of English Second Division Rugby — again with Epruc — this time in Coventry. Again their decision to break away was unanimous.

Yesterday the seal of approval was provided by the money men, such as Sir John Hall, who have between them

busy fighting each other tooth and nail, they have done nothing to help bring us into the professional era," he said.

Essentially, the clubs want a certain amount of autonomy, to which the RFU had agreed according to a resolution drawn up between the two sides on 24 May. That left some outstanding issues, including the clubs' desire to sort out their own sponsorship for the Leagues.

Courage had agreed to pull out of the top two divisions and concentrate their cash on the Third Division and lower, but according to Epruc the clubs' blocking that.

Epruc claim they cannot fund domestic club rugby on £300,000 per year for First Division clubs and £100,000 for the Second Di-

sion clubs — the cash they are to receive from the Sky deal. As one senior club figure said: "The Division One clubs already receive £120,000 from Sky anyway, so the increase is a net £180,000. The RFU are prepared to throw £10m at the other unions and another £10m to safeguard the Five Nations, yet they are not prepared to put a penny into club rugby."

The last straw as far as the clubs are concerned was the news that the £2.5m they were told they could expect to share from the Heineken European Cup has been reduced to £1.5m because the organisers, European Rugby Cup Ltd, had failed to find a broadcaster or a sponsor for the second tier of the competition, the European Con-

ference and so have funded that from the original prize pot. "The problem," said the Epruc official, "is that the RFU is paralysed. It is hopeless. They set up channels of communication between the clubs and themselves but everything has had to be referred to the executive and they keep turning everything down. We have not been able to negotiate with the principals."

Although some clubs will have to refer to their membership regarding a breakaway from the RFU, once the formalities have been observed it is expected that the clubs will give the RFU a season's notice, although it is unacceptable then they could go it alone a lot sooner, which would probably bring the game to a standstill.

Polished England revel in their own reflection

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE
reports from Old Trafford
Pakistan 225-5
England 226-5
England win by 5 wkt

In late afternoon, the summer sun can shine straight down this Old Trafford pitch, blinding batsmen with its mirror-like surface. Yesterday, although that surface was cracked and quartered like a Roman mosaic, England, for once, were able to see their reflection without turning away in disgust, easily beating Pakistan by five wickets in the first one-day international.

As they are so often inclined to do in these Texaco Matches, England totally outplayed the

opposition, once again showing a panache for this sort of cricket that does not travel well abroad. For once, all facets of their game looked polished and although the home side owed much to Aamer Sohail's funeral 48 off 117 balls, Atherton's men can take much credit for the upbeat way in which they approached this match.

Chasing a total of 225 on a pitch that threatened Jurassic Park, but played more like Sabi Park, the England skipper chose to open with Alec Stewart and Nick Knight, and drop himself to No 3. It was obvious that a crisp start was needed, and Stewart was patently the man for the job.

He delivered, too, belting both Wasim and Waqar for fours in the opening overs as he and Knight, reinstated to the

opening role he fills for Warwickshire, put on 57 in the first 10 overs. So assured were the pair at puncturing Wasim's carefully set field that he was forced to turn to the off-spin of Saqlain Mushtaq as early as the 10th over.

Saqlain is a fine bowler, but his absence from the important cricket of the tour will not have helped him on his early introduction here and he was never allowed to settle. Instead Wasim ought to have turned to Mushtaq Ahmed, though like those of Waqar, he probably wanted to save the leg-spinners' overs to exert pressure later in the piece.

It was a fine balancing act that could have gone Pakistan's way had Wasim managed to cling on to a sharp chance from Stewart, offered soon after the bowler had removed Knight, to the toss and batted.

After 10 overs, the Pakistan vice-captain had ground his way to just a single run. The rangy lolling left-arm of Alan Mullally, like a Gary Kasparov attack on an opponents Queen, slowly pushing him into a corner, his options disappearing by the ball. When Mullally rested, he conceded 11 runs from seven overs, a remarkable analysis considering the fielding restrictions in place.

And yet while Sohail scratched, blunted and missed, Anwar with his supple squash player's wrists improvised with the confidence of a man in prime form.

By the time Ronnie Irani came on, he had quite obviously decided to go it alone, striking the Essex all-rounder's second ball over the top for four. Irani, when attempting to repeat the shot some overs later, Anwar was caught by Mullally for 57.

Irani, whose bowling is the weaker of his skills, lacked the required zip for this surface and his ten overs were the most expensive in the match costing 56 runs. A figure almost matched by Dean Headley, whose wicketless debut did not highlight the Kent bowler's undoubted talent.

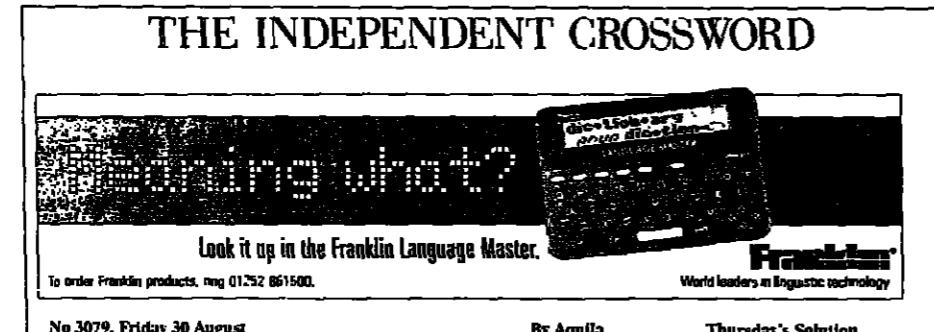
Robert Croft, England's other one-day debutant — like his showing at the Oval — made a far deeper impression. He ap-

peared, despite the oozing and aching that accompanies almost every ball, to have a marvellous temperament and nous for this level of cricket.

He appears to sense changes in a batsman's gameplan like a bloodhound sniffing the air, and he bowled both Sohail and Wasim, just as they sought to collar him. Only a late onslaught by Inzamam-ul-Haq, who scored an unbeaten 37, brought Pakistan's score to respectability. But, although no one knew it then, it wasn't quite respectable enough.

Henry Blofeld, page 22

Captain's innings: Michael Atherton hits out during his match-winning knock for England. Photograph: David Ashdown



ACROSS

- Savagery of cry if toe broken (8)
- Scottish prosecutor concerned with tax revenues (6)
- Diversion in Bombay, taking wrong direction in park (n.4-5)
- Lunk after scaled-down track where it is set for kids (7)
- Constable, perhaps, wearing dicky with an array of colours (7)
- Originator of Air Force degrees, we hear (8)
- Exceptional petrol, this? (5)
- Cricket-side attitude in the beginning? (5)
- Supporter of half-day closing (6)
- With no-one up, nothing added to jury's verdict (9)
- Danger in fairy lake (5)

DOWN

- One trying to pass a deep hole in river (8)
- Mother in checks for crumbs (7)
- Sea parrot, at start of gale, is out of breath (7)
- Leaving to perform 10 ac.? (12,3)
- Attendant in someone's corvette (6)
- All types turning out for these short performances (8)
- Supporter of half-day closing (6)
- With no-one up, nothing added to jury's verdict (9)
- Danger in fairy lake (5)

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Lee defensive as Graham rejects City

Football

Francis Lee yesterday denied that Manchester City lack the financial ambition to compete with the best after George Graham rejected his offer to succeed Alan Ball as the manager at Maine Road.

The City chairman insisted that the reasons for Graham's rebuff did not concern money, the First Division club having been prepared to give Graham out of football for 18 months since being dismissed by Arsenal — a four-year deal that would have "delighted 90 per cent of managers".

"George Graham was offered very, very good terms and a large amount of money for him as working capital to buy players and expand his squad if necessary," Lee said. "What is sufficient money for transfers? Is it £20m or £30m?"

"I don't know why he turned us down, it leaves me completely baffled. I am dumbfounded but nothing surprises me in this game."

Graham, whom Lee saw as the ideal man to lift City following relegation at the end of

last season and a dismal start to the new campaign, described the offer as "very fair" but did not think the job was "right for me at this time".

Nor City may turn to Bruce Rioch, another former Arsenal manager, who was sacked at Highbury five days before the start of the new season. The Swindon manager Steve McMahon, a former City player, Kenny Dalglish, who resigned as Blackburn's director of football last week, and even

Jack Charlton, the 62-year-old former Republic of Ireland manager, have also been mentioned as likely candidates.

The West Ham wing Robe Slater looks likely to join Southampton today if he comes through a medical. The fee of £250,000 represents a loss for West Ham, who took him from

Swindon for £100,000 in 1994.

Bruce Grobbelaar will coach Zimbabwe against Tanzania on 29 September and Sudan on 5 October. The 38-year-old goal-

keeper, now with the Second Division leaders Plymouth Argyle, was assistant coach for Zimbabwe for their 1995 World Cup preliminary matches against Madagascar which they lost 4-3 on aggregate in June.

Bristol Rovers have called in volunteers to clear away building rubble so that tomorrow's game with Stockport can go ahead. Safety officers have refused a licence for Rovers' home at the Memorial Ground but are to inspect again to day.

Beckham's role, page 23

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